



4.3 Malcolm tests the loyalty of Macduff

Audience

Will there be another ghost after this murder?

What will happen when their father finds out?

Who will kill the mother as she exits?

Are we going to see another ghost?

Situation

Location: England

Conditions: *Each new morn/New widows howl, new orphans cry, new sorrows/strike heaven on the face*

Time: The English king is healing a *crew of wretched souls*. So we could assume its day time

Space: a royal space

Character

Status: Malcolm has the highest status as possible heir to the throne. He is younger than Macduff.

See: Malcolm see Macbeth's old friend. Macduff see's the dead king's older son

Envy: Malcolm envies Macduff's distance from the situation. Macduff envies his blood line

Predicament: Malcolm wants to exert his authority over Macduff but he has to test him. Macduff wants take control over the situation but all he has to play Malcolm's game.

Stakes: Malcolm gains Macduff's loyalty. Macduff gains friendship to the future king. Ross - I need to calm my friend

Identity/unidentity: Malcolm - false tyrant/rightful heir. Macduff - doubtful subject/challenging advisor/loyal subject/vengeful father. Ross moves from a grieving subject to a cautious friend

Language

Pre-scene: The last scene between Macduff and his wife before he leaves her. You could play the scene of Ross arriving at Macduff's castle to find his family slaughtered. *tyrant/tyranny*

Iambic: Note the lines between Malcom, Ross and Macduff between 178 and 223 are fractured, shared and broken reflecting the emotional chaos of Macduff's grief. The iambic reflects the fact that they are playing a political game.

Pronouns: Malcolm's uses the pronoun *I* 27 times opposed to Macduff use of the pronoun 'I' three times.

Hear: The word is used at least seven times in the scene.

Impact

See: a scene about politics and loyalty

Remind: about the division between England and Scotland

Think: about the ideas of revenge and justice

Feel: pity, sympathy and empathy for the Macduff

React: do they want to see Macbeth defeated now?