



## Act 5.2 Forces gather to attack Macbeth

### Audience

**What** will happen to Lady Macbeth?

**Who** will tell Macbeth of her illness?

**When** will we see a battle?

**Are** we at the end of the play?

### Situation

**Location:** Somewhere between the Scottish border and Dunsinane

**Situation:** Macbeth is fortifying Dunsinane. Malcolm and Macduff are going to meet them at Birnham wood. Siward is bringing his younger son with many *unrough youths*, implying that they are inexperienced in war.

**Time** – This isn't alluded to in the scene. The previous scene is at night, so this may be around the same time or as the dawn is arriving.

**Space:** Outside on are they in England or have they moved to Scotland yet?

### Character

**Status:** All the same rank

**See:** There are four men of equal rank on their way to battle.

**Envy:** They see potential men who may be promoted after the battle depending on their valour, courage, skill or closeness to Malcolm.

**Predicament:** They want to vanquish Macbeth for themselves but have to collaborate so all they can do is collaborate.

**Stakes:** Menith: I need to ready myself to kill Macbeth. Lennox: I need to know how many men we have

**Identity/unidentity:** Menith - Thoughtful Thane, Angus - Mocking Soldier, Caithness - Loyal Subject, Lennox - Rigorous leader

### Language

**Pre scene:** discuss victory or defeat, who will join them. Donalbain is still in Ireland

**Under poem:** Malcolm/Macduff/causes/alarum/man/wood/coming/brother/file/son/now/manhood/tyrant/fortifies/him/certain/cause/rule – is this a map of what is about to happen?

**Pronoun.** The men refer to Macbeth not by name but allude to him as the *tyrant* and then use *he/him* 14 times during the scene.

**Iambic.** Caithness's metre has a military regularity to it to, reflecting the pace and direction of the scene? Lennox's final line only has four feet followed by the stage direction *Exeunt Marching*.

**Hear:** The men finish off each other's lines 6 times during the scene? Are they individuals or working as a group?

### Impact

**See:** Men preparing for battle

**Remind:** the report of the battle at the beginning of the play

**Think:** what sort of war is this?

**Feel:** pleased that opposition to Macbeth is happening

**React:** want to know how it's going to unfold