



Act 5.3 Macbeth is told about his wife's illness

Audience

Will the Thanes be successful in their attack on Macbeth's Castle?

When will we see Macbeth again?

What state will he be in?

Who else will be with him?

Situation

Location: we are inside Macbeth's castle.

Conditions: There are 10,000 soldiers coming toward the castle. Macbeth wants his armour and Rhubarb is used a medicine to purge disease

Time: The servant can see the soldiers approaching therefore it must be day light.

Space: Macbeth's space, a sick space

Character

See: Macbeth's sees his doctor and sees his personal servant. The Doctor see his patients next of kin

Envy: Macbeth envy's the fact that the doctor may be able to cure his wife and he cannot.

Predicament: He wants to believe the witches prophesy but he has to listen to the soldier's report.

Stakes: Macbeth needs to gain control, The Doctor needs to gain his integrity

Identity: Macbeth - a blind leader/ vicious boss/belligerent king/heartbroken husband. Think about where else we see these qualities.

Language

Pre-scene Has the doctor just got an audience with him? Was it hard to get an audience with Macbeth?

Under poem. Macbeth talking about his wife - that/diseased/sorrow/brain/antidote/stuff/heart. Then compare this when he talking about the advancing army: it/staff/me/cast/disease/health/echo/say/drug/.

Pronoun. Macbeth uses 'I' 15 times during the scene apart from when he is talking about his wife (39-44)

Iambic The Doctor's last two line have a regular iambic foot and they rhyme, unlike the rest of the scene.

Why does he address it to the audience?

Impact

See: a king with his servant, attendant and doctor giving him bad news

Remind: who gives the king power – his subjects?

Think: what happens those people who bring bad news

Feel: excited for the end of the tyrant and pity for the man

React: The audience know the wood is moving, the end is nigh for Macbeth