



Act 5.4 – Malcolm uses camouflage to attack the castle

Audience

Will the witch's predictions become true?

What will happen when the soldiers attack the castle

Who will kill Macbeth

Are we going to see a total victory from Malcolm and his allies?

Setting

Location what is that wood before us? The wood of Birnam – 18 miles North:West of Dunsinane Hill

Conditions Military column marching with Drum and Colours emphasising the unification of Scotland and England

Time It takes 6 hours to walk between Birnam and Dunsinane and they have been marching already probably from sunrise.

Space They are outside in standing in front of a large wood that will be used as camouflage

Character

Status Malcolm, as Duncan's older son, has the most power followed by Macduff, Menteth and Siward

See Malcolm two thanes who need a military idea to bring success, Menteth and Siward see the future King about to go into battle. The first time was before the play started

Envy Malcolm envies the fact that the other men don't need to take responsibility for the victory

Predicament He wants to fight a straight fight but he has to come up with a clever plan to trick Macbeth

Stakes Malcolm needs to gain Macbeth's arrogance in order to trick him

Identity/unidentity Malcolm is dutiful son then a duplicitous commander

Language

Pre scene Malcolm wondering how to beat Macbeth – he clearly feels threatened by him

Under poem *hand, safe, nothing, us, Birnam, bough, shadow, discovery, done, tyrant*

Pronoun Malcolm uses *I* once and *we, us, him, our and us* are used 14 times and Macbeth's name is not mentioned on *him/his* three times.

Iambic between lines 10 – 14 Malcolm's lines are irregular 4,11,11,9,6

Hear How Malcolm's lines are finished off by Menteth, Soldier and Macduff.

Impact

See The heir to the throne devising a military strategy to cheat Macbeth

Remind This was the man who was saved by Macbeth from the Norwegians before the play started

Think about how Malcolm uses 'equivocation' to win against the master equivocator – was this the witches idea

Feel Uncertain as the witches have predicted this but will it come true?

React Are they rooting for Malcolm to win or are there other powers at play?

Macbeth hears the news of his wife's death, reflects on his mortality and is resolved to fight