

13 – THE KING AND QUEEN

What does the banquet scene do to the Macbeths' relationship?

WHAT YOU NEED

- Some pieces of paper, or a notebook and something to write with.
- A computer with internet connection, ready to play [this clip](#) and to visit [this page](#).
- A copy of Act 3 Scene 4 from Macbeth, to read either on the page or onscreen.

ACTIVITY

- Watch [this clip](#) of the banquet scene from the RSC's 2018 production.
- On [this page](#) of the RSC Learning Zone, find the 'read and explore' text extract of this scene. Read the scene out loud and decide which lines are spoken for everyone to hear and which are said privately.
- Choose one of Lady Macbeth's lines and one of Macbeth's. Create two tableaus or frozen images to represent each character as they say this line. Try to use the whole body to express how they feel.
- If you have a big mirror, look at both tableaus and choose 3 words to describe each. You can do this without a mirror just by exploring how your image makes you feel. Do these words accurately sum up how both characters feel in this moment?
- If you have time, write a line for each guest to describe their King and Queen at the start of the scene and another line to describe them at the end.
- Ask yourself: Do people know what Macbeth is seeing? What information is he giving them? What does Lady Macbeth learn about her husband by the end of the scene?

EXTENSION

- Think about how you might stage Banquo's appearance. How will you make him look different and make it clear that only Macbeth can see him? Will the audience be able to see him or not? Write a short 2 sentence proposal for how you might do this, creating visuals to support your idea. These could be drawings, or models, and can be as technical as you want. For example, how will Banquo appear? He could come in through the floorboard, or during a blackout.

PRIMARY ACTIVITY

- Watch [this clip](#) of the banquet scene from the RSC's 2018 production.
- On [this page](#) of the RSC Learning Zone, find the 'read and explore' bit of text for this scene. Read the scene out loud and decide which lines are spoken for everyone to hear and which are said privately.
- Choose one of Lady Macbeth's lines and one of Macbeth's. Create two statues or frozen images with your body for each character as they say this line. Try to use the whole body to express how they feel.
- If you have a big mirror, look at both statues and choose 3 words to describe each. You can do this without a mirror just by thinking how your statue makes you feel. Do these words best describe how both characters feel in this moment?
- If you have time, look at which other characters are in this scene. Write a line for each to describe their King and Queen at the start of the scene and another line to describe them at the end.
- Ask yourself: Do people know what Macbeth is seeing? What information is he giving them? What does Lady Macbeth learn about her husband by the end of the scene?

PRIMARY EXTENSION

- As above.