

15 – MACDUFF

When does Macduff become a threat to Macbeth?

WHAT YOU NEED

- Some pieces of paper, or a notebook and something to write with.
- A computer with internet connection, ready to visit [this page](#) and play [this clip](#).
- A mobile phone or device that can play music.

ACTIVITY

- Watch [this clip](#) of the trailer for the RSC 2011 production of Macbeth. Imagine this short film is a nightmare that Macduff has been having about his murdered children. What dramatic techniques are used in this trailer to make it feel like a nightmare?
- Look at Macduff's lines on p.13 of [this page](#). Look at each line and choose any words that stand out to you. Say each line out loud and whisper these words as an echo after the line.
- Choose a piece of music to suit your nightmare. You can search for some music online or you might have something on a play list that is suitable. Practice Macduff's lines and whispered words to this music. Why do you think these things might haunt Macbeth?
- Ask yourself: Why doesn't Macduff go to the banquet? When does Macduff first suspect Macbeth? What makes Macduff leave his family alone and unprotected?

EXTENSION

- Write the last scene that Macduff has with his family. As you do this, consider what Lady Macduff is like, how long they've been married, how many children they have and how the family might feel about Macduff leaving them? Do you think they want to remain in Scotland, under Macbeth's leadership? Also think about whether Macduff would tell his family the real reason he's going to England. What are his last words to his wife and children before he leaves?