

16 – THE ALLIANCE

Why do Malcolm and Macduff need each other?

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](#).

ACTIVITY

- Find a space in the room so that you can shadow box safely without making contact with anything. Shadow boxing is when you imagine your opponent and move around as though you are boxing with a shadow. Find the edited text for Act 4 Scene 3 on p.8 of the above page.
- Read the scene out loud, imagining you are Macduff shadow boxing with Malcolm. Every time you have the upper hand in the argument, you can deliver a physical blow to him (without making contact!) Record how many blows you make and when you make them.
- Read the scene again but this time, as Malcolm. Count how many blows you give Macduff and where they are. Who gives the most blows?!
- Where are the points in the scene where Malcolm has the upper hand? Where are the points where Macduff has the upper hand?
- Are there moments when Malcolm and Macduff stop exchanging verbal blows and start to gain a mutual understanding and respect for one another?
- Ask yourself: What kind of King do you think Malcolm will be? What is the relationship like between Malcolm and Macduff by the end of the scene?

EXTENSION

- Ross has to deliver the terrible news to Macduff at the end of the scene. Imagining you are Ross, write a running diary of your journey from Scotland to England to find Macduff and give him this news. How has he travelled? Has he gone as fast as possible or has he taken his time and why?
- Practice giving the news to an imaginary Macduff. If you choose to, you can film your attempts, addressing the camera as if it was Macduff. Can you look him in the eye? How do you choose your words? How does it make you feel?

PRIMARY ACTIVITY

- As above.

PRIMARY EXTENSION

- Ross has to deliver terrible news to Macduff at the end of the scene, telling him his family have been killed. Imagining you are Ross, write a running diary of your journey from Scotland to England to find Macduff and give him this news. How has he travelled? Has he gone as fast as possible or has he taken his time and why?
- Write a short diary entry for Ross. How does he feel about giving his friend this news? Does he want to get it over with? How does he think Macduff will react when he tells him?