

# 17 – LADY MACBETH

What does the sleepwalking scene reveal about Lady Macbeth?

## 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](#).
- A copy of Act 5 Scene 1 from Macbeth, to read either on the page or online.

## ACTIVITY

- Watch the above clip from time code 0:00 to 1:40. Look at Act 5 Scene 1 and find the moment where Lady Macbeth starts to speak. Say all of her lines out loud, stamping your foot any time she mentions blood, or anything related to blood, an image or action. How much of this scene is dominated by these images? What does it tell us about her state of mind?
- Now watch the clip from time code 1:35 to 2:26. Say her lines out loud again but this time, walk around the room, changing direction every time there is a bit of punctuation – make sure you include every comma and semi-colon as well as full stops and exclamation marks. How busy were your feet? How does this reflect Lady Macbeth's state of mind?
- Watch the clip from time code 2:26 to 4:05. Use two chairs or create two areas in your room to represent Lady Macbeth and Macbeth. Speak her lines again, moving between the two spaces or chairs whenever you think she is talking to herself or to her husband. Are there any times when you're not sure who she's speaking to? Again, what does this tell you about who dominates her thoughts?
- Ask yourself: What different things does Shakespeare do in the Sleepwalking scene to show Lady Macbeth's state of mind? How do you think she changed since the bloody dagger scene? What do the Doctor and Gentlewoman learn in this scene?

## EXTENSION

- Write a Doctor's report for Lady Macbeth. What treatment does he prescribe for her? Would he make any mention of the things he's heard her say and what he might suspect?