

5 – THE LETTER

What does Macbeth leave out of the letter and why?

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 1 Scene 5 from Macbeth to read, either on the page or onscreen.

ACTIVITY

- Watch the clip above about Act 1 Scene 5 where Lady Macbeth receives a letter from her husband, telling her about the witches and their strange prophecies. (Time code 0:00 to 3:13)
- Try writing this letter from Macbeth's point of view. How would he tell his wife? The letter would be very different, depending on what their relationship is like. For this exercise, imagine that Macbeth and his wife are extremely close and that he shares everything with her – including all his thoughts and fears. What might he want to tell her?
- Ask yourself: Has Macbeth written to his wife before? How easy has it been to tell her what he's seen? Is there anything he's left out of the letter and if so, why?

EXTENSION

- Now imagine Macbeth's relationship with his wife is not close at all and that he rarely shares his feelings with her. Write another version of the letter. How might he word it differently?
- Imagine you are Lady Macbeth and read his letter out loud. After every sentence you read, stop and say how you feel about your husband and the news. Record this exercise and listen back to it – creating your very own version of the letter scene.