

8 – THE MURDER OF DUNCAN

What is the effect of having the murder of Duncan described, rather than seen on stage?

WHAT YOU NEED

- Some pieces of paper, or a notebook and something to write with.
- A computer with internet connection, ready to play both [this clip](#) and [this clip](#).
- A copy of Act 2 Scene 2 from Macbeth to read, either on the page or onscreen.

ACTIVITY

- Watch the [first clip](#) (from time code 0:00 to 0:50) of Lady Macbeth waiting for her husband. Make note of what it tells you about the geography of the castle. Where is Duncan's chamber? How far away is she waiting?
- Draw a floor plan of Duncan's chamber, marking on it the position of the sleeping guards and the king. You may even want to think about where the Macbeths' chambers are in relation to it.
- Watch the [second clip](#) (from time code 5:00 to 5:16) about what it is to murder a king. Imagine you are a detective. Around the edge of your floor plan write down your case notes. What are Macbeth's motives? What clues can you find? Try and include quotes from the text as you make your notes.
- Ask yourself: Why does King Duncan's murder have such an effect on Macbeth? Why didn't Lady Macbeth murder him?

EXTENSION

- Watch the [first clip](#) (from time code 0:00 to 0:50) of Lady Macbeth waiting for her husband. Make note of what it tells you about the geography of the castle. Where is Duncan's chamber? How far away is she waiting?
- Look at the photo gallery of the murder scene on [this page](#). Think of what Macbeth has seen and heard in Duncan's chamber that Shakespeare hasn't shown us.
- Write the missing murder scene in your own words. Imagine what could have happened in Duncan's chamber. Use the clues from the text and invent your own details. Did Duncan see Macbeth? Did Macbeth speak to him at all?