

9 – THE BLOODY DAGGERS

How do Macbeth and Lady Macbeth affect each other in this scene?

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](#), [this page](#) and [this clip](#).

ACTIVITY

- Watch the first clip on the [first page](#) about iambic pentameter, the heartbeat rhythm that Shakespeare uses in his verse. Find the section of text from Act 2 Scene 2 in the [second page](#). This is the conversation Lady Macbeth has with Macbeth after he returns from killing the king. Read the lines out loud, tapping out the heartbeat rhythm.
- Some of the lines are very short. If you join some of them together, can you make a complete line of 5 iambic beats? Make a note of when these shared lines happen and why this might be?
- Watch the [last clip](#) (from time code 3:00 to the end) of this scene in performance.
- Ask yourself: What has Macbeth genuinely heard and what has he imagined? How does he try to make his wife understand his fears? What does Lady Macbeth do to stay in control?

EXTENSION

- Record your own Dagger Scene Soundscape. Watch [this clip](#) exploring the noises in Act 2 Scene 2. Write a list of all the sounds that are in this scene, real or imaginary.
- Find a way of creating these different sound effects as if you are in a live radio studio. Record your effects to test how they sound.
- Now try putting these effects together to create your soundscape. You can perform them live, edit them together or a combination of both. You can even use words or lines from the scene.

PRIMARY ACTIVITY

- Watch the first clip on the [first page](#) about the heartbeat rhythm that Shakespeare uses in his verse, iambic pentameter.

- Practice beating out the iambic rhythm as you speak using your own lines and phrases. Any sentence with ten syllables can be read in the same way. See if you can tap out the rhythm while saying these lines, for example: 'I really want a glass of milk to drink' or 'I've eaten all my Easter eggs, so what!' If you can make up your own, even better. These are all lines in iambic pentameter.
- Find the scene in the [second page](#). This is the conversation Lady Macbeth has with Macbeth after he returns from killing the king. Read the lines out loud, tapping out the heartbeat rhythm as you read.
- Some of the lines are very short. If you join some of them together, can you make a complete line of five heartbeats? Make a note of when these shared lines happen. Why might they be finishing each other's sentences? How does it make them sound and are they happy about what they've done, scared, angry at each other? Do you think the change in the rhythm helps us to work it out?
- Watch the [last clip](#) (from time code 3:00 to the end) of this scene in performance.
- Ask yourself: What noises has Macbeth really heard and what has he imagined? What does Lady Macbeth do to calm him down?

PRIMARY EXTENSION

- Record your own soundscape for the scene. Watch [this clip](#) exploring the noises in Act 2 Scene 2. Write a list of all the sounds that are in this scene, real or imaginary.
- Find a way of creating these different sound effects as if you are in a live radio studio. Record your effects to test how they sound.
- Now try putting these effects together to create your soundscape. You can perform them live, edit them together or a combination of both. You can even use words or lines from the scene.