

<p>‘Fair is foul and foul is fair’</p> <p>This introduces an atmosphere of deception and immediately suggests that in the play things are not how they appear to be It also establishes the witches as agents of this deception</p>	<p>‘Brandished steel smoked with bloody execution’</p> <p>The metaphorical ‘smoked’ suggests that Macbeth’s sword is dripping with blood and establishes Macbeth as a skilled solider Here, ‘bloody’ is synonymous with masculine violence and valour The term ‘execution’ suggests Macbeth’s killings at this point are sanctioned and not ungodly</p>	<p>‘As sparrows eagles, or the hare the lion.’</p> <p>Macbeth is lauded for his bravery using animal imagery as he is compared the fierce ‘lion’ and ‘eagle’ and his enemies ‘sparrows’ or ‘hares’ The animals are also predatory perhaps foreshadowing Macbeth’s potential for murder</p>	<p>‘Bellona’s bridegroom’</p> <p>Bellona is the goddess of war. Macbeth is being likened to her groom Mars reinforcing his almost godly valour</p> <p>However, Shakespeare does not outwardly identify Macbeth as ‘Mars’ but instead calls him ‘Bellona’s bridegroom’ foregrounding the woman and perhaps foreshadowing Lady Macbeth’s role in the violence to come</p>	<p>Stay you imperfect speakers. Tell me more!’</p> <p>The urgent exclamation suggests Macbeth’s desire to know more of the witches ‘prophetic greetings’ and reveals his temptation by the supernatural</p>
<p>‘The instruments of darkness tell us truths, Win us with honest trifles, to betray’s’</p> <p>The metaphorical ‘instruments of darkness’ reveals the witches are vehicles of malevolence Banquo recognises that the witches may predict some small things correctly but their intention is to deceive. Therefore, Banquo is introduced as Macbeth’s foil as he recognises the witches’ trickery unlike Macbeth.</p>	<p>‘I have begun to plant thee, and will labour to make thee full of growing’</p> <p>Plant imagery is used to suggest that Duncan will ‘grow’ Macbeth and Banquo progressing them through the natural order Banquo replies that the ‘harvest is your own’ suggesting he will obey the natural order whereas Macbeth does not reply suggesting he will not</p>	<p>‘Let not light see my black and deep desires’</p> <p>This is said in an aside after the Duncan names Malcolm heir and reveals the beginnings of Macbeth’s duplicity Light imagery is used to denote purity and divinity whereas dark imagery is used to denote evil Through his murderous thoughts here, Macbeth inhabits the metaphorical darkness and goes against the natural order</p>	<p>‘Chastise with the valour of my tongue all that impedes thee from the golden round’</p> <p>Lady Macbeth’s Machiavellian nature is revealed as she plans to manipulate Macbeth She plans to do this this using feminine rather than masculine actions. Lady Macbeth’s weapon is not a sword, her weapon is her words or ‘tongue.’ Moreover, the noun ‘valour’ clearly attributes bravery to her words</p>	<p>‘Come, you spirits...unsex me here’</p> <p>The soliloquy reveals Lady Macbeth’s ruthless ambitions This imperative reveals Lady Macbeth as atypical as she rejects Jacobean expectations of femininity as these impede her from committing acts of violence This alludes to Queen Elizabeth I who also had to ‘unsex’ herself and said she had the ‘heart of a king’ to be seen as powerful</p>
<p>‘Look like the innocent flower but be the serpent under’t’</p> <p>Lady Macbeth advises Macbeth on how to be duplicitous. The simile suggests that Macbeth must appear innocent with the flower connoting harmlessness. The metaphor ‘be the serpent’ suggests that Macbeth must be in fact be sly and cruel The ‘serpent’ is also an allusion to the Bible in which Eve, tempted by the snake, leads Adam astray which leads to their fall from Grace It is also an allusion to the medal King James I made to commemorate the discovery of the gunpowder plot which showed a serpent among lilies and read ‘He who concealed himself is detected.’</p>	<p>‘His virtues will plead like angels against the deep damnation of his taking off’</p> <p>The simile comparing Duncan’s ‘virtues’ to ‘angels’ emphasises Duncan’s divinity and reminds the reader that any act against Duncan would be sacrilegious The noun ‘damnation’ which is associated with Duncan’s murder reinforces this idea suggests that anyone who hurt the king would be ‘damned’ and therefore doomed to hell ‘Taking off’ is a euphemism to describe Duncan’s murder suggesting Macbeth is too fearful or guilty to formulate the word murder</p>	<p>‘I have no spur to prick the sides of my intent but vaulting ambition.’</p> <p>The horse riding metaphor here suggests that Macbeth’s ‘spur’ to kill Duncan is purely his ‘vaulting ambition’ The adjective ‘vaulting’ indicates that Macbeth’s ambition is unchecked and will therefore result in disaster. This is Macbeth’s hamartia.</p>	<p>‘When you durst do it then, you were a man.’</p> <p>‘Daring’ and action denotes masculinity whereas passivity is feminine Lady Macbeth uses this Jacobean expectation of masculinity to emasculate Macbeth therefore persuading him into committing regicide</p>	<p>‘I would, while it was smiling in my face, have pluck’d my nipple from his boneless gums, and dash’d the brains out’</p> <p>By describing herself as a loving mother who nonetheless would have brutally killed her own child before she would abort a plan to seize power, Lady Macbeth disrupts the typical idea of what women and mothers are like She uses this image to make her husband that he is being unmanly by doubting their scheme</p>

<p>‘Is this the dagger I see before me, the handle toward my hand?’</p> <p>The dagger is symbolic of Macbeth’s murderous intent. His weapon has changed from an honourable sword to a sneaky, deceptive dagger. The position of the dagger reveals the likelihood that Macbeth will clutch the murder weapon</p>	<p>Will all great Neptune’s ocean wash this blood clean from my hand?’</p> <p>Blood serves as a symbol of Macbeth’s penitence Macbeth questions if Neptune (the God of the Sea) will wash the blood or guilt away Macbeth uses dramatic language to conclude that the blood will ‘turn the green one red’ meaning it will stain all of the world’s ocean revealing the permanence of this sacrilegious act</p>	<p>‘My hands are of your colour, but I shame to wear a heart so white.’</p> <p>Lady Macbeth, at this point, is unrepentant She dismisses the stain of ‘colour’ or blood and instead deems Macbeth a coward with his ‘white’ heart Her strength is further reinforced when she commands ‘Give me the daggers and takes on the active, masculine role</p>	<p>‘Look to the lady’</p> <p>Here, Lady Macbeth pretends to faint using Jacobean expectations of women’s fragility to deflect guilt away from her and her husband This reveals both her duplicity and Machiavellian nature</p>	<p>‘Tis said they ate each other’</p> <p>After the murder of Duncan, nature begins to behave strangely to demonstrate the disruption of the natural order which has taken place The brutal image of horses eating each other reveals the chaos and savagery which is now taking place in Scotland</p>
<p>‘I fear he played most foully for it’</p> <p>Under Macbeth’s tyrannical reign, the honorable Banquo expresses his suspicions in a soliloquy Banquo concludes that Macbeth played for it ‘foully’ which suggest evil and disruption of the natural order which evokes fear in Banquo</p>	<p>‘Upon my head, they placed a fruitless crown’</p> <p>Shakespeare again uses plant imagery to show that Macbeth’s dynasty will not ‘grow’ as he has no heirs. The crown the witches have given him is ‘fruitless’ and will pass to another, presumably Banquo’s children, which is why Macbeth fears Banquo at this point in the play</p>	<p>‘O full of scorpions is my mind’</p> <p>Macbeth speaks in metaphor to Lady Macbeth to communicate to her that he is losing his sanity because Banquo and Fleance still live. ‘Scorpions’ connote danger and death and the threat that Banquo poses to Macbeth</p>	<p>‘Be innocent of the knowledge dearest chuck til thou applaud the deed’</p> <p>Macbeth now excludes Lady Macbeth from his plans to murder Banquo. She is now passive and begins to conform to the submissive or ‘innocent’ expectations of women who will ‘applaud’ men Lady Macbeth is no longer ‘partner’ but the dismissive ‘chuck’</p>	<p>‘Blood will have blood’</p> <p>This suggests that blood shed through violence seeks more blood in revenge The motif of blood here suggests that the ‘poisoned chalice’ Macbeth feared before regicide has indeed come to ‘plague him’ Macbeth feels trapped in this cycle of bloodshed</p>
<p>‘By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes’</p> <p>The witches often speak in trochaic trimeter and rhyme to show them as other worldly Macbeth now seeks the witches out demonstrating his descent into villainy and ‘wickedness’</p>	<p>‘Bleed, bleed poor country! Great tyranny!’</p> <p>The personification of Scotland suggests it is victim to Macbeth’s tyranny The repetition of ‘bleed’ emphasises the savagery and violence of Macbeth’s rule The exclamation reveals Macduff’s despair demonstrating his patriotism rather than self-interest</p>	<p>‘Within my sword’s length set him’</p> <p>Macduff’s vow to fight Macbeth in battle demonstrates his audacity It also reveals how he conforms to masculine expectations of the Jacobean period of bravery and violence. This is reinforced by Malcolm’s praise that ‘this tune goes manly’</p>	<p>‘Out, damned spot! Out, I say!’</p> <p>As Lady Macbeth descends into madness, her speech becomes more frenetic emphasised through the use of fragmented sentences, repetition and exclamations The motif of blood suggests she now realises the permanence of her guilt. The adjective ‘damned’ suggests she is in a hellish state as a result of her sacrilegious actions</p>	<p>‘Will these hands ne’er be clean?’</p> <p>The motif of blood reveals Lady Macbeth’s remorse which she now stains her conscience and cannot be cleared by a ‘little water’ Lady Macbeth now speaks in prose to denote her madness and fall from nobility</p>
<p>‘His title hangs loose about him like a giant’s robe upon a dwarfish thief.’</p> <p>The clothing metaphor is used to show Macbeth’s inadequacies as king. The title is ‘loose’ to show that it is too great for him. This is emphasised by the simile ‘like a giant’s robe upon a dwarfish thief’ which reinforces the idea that Macbeth is too small for the ‘giant’ title of king ‘Thief’ suggests that Macbeth has stolen or usurped the title which is why he will never be worthy</p>	<p>Give me my armour’</p> <p>The change in clothing to ‘armour’ shows that Macbeth is returning to his true identity of a soldier This is also cyclical as Macbeth begins and ends the play in battle however at the start of the play he is ‘valiant’ and at the end a ‘tyrant’</p>	<p>‘Bear-like I must fight the course’</p> <p>Shakespeare uses animal imagery to reveal Macbeth’s character at this point in the play His ferocity is revealed through the bear comparison However, this is also a reference to bear baiting and just like the ‘bear’ Macbeth, trapped at Dunsinane, must wait for and fight those who are hunting him</p>	<p>‘These juggling fiends be no more believed’</p> <p>‘Juggling’ shows how the witches have deliberately deceived Macbeth to manipulate fate Macbeth’s eventual rejection of the witches’ trickery is essential for him to die with some honour and therefore be a tragic hero</p>	<p>‘Dead butcher and his fiend-like queen’</p> <p>‘Butcher’ refers to the violence and savagery of Macbeth’s rule and the consequent ‘butchering’ of Scotland ‘Fiend’ refers to an evil spirit as portrays Lady Macbeth as malevolent and witch-like However, Malcolm, refers to Lady Macbeth as belonging to Macbeth therefore making her secondary</p>