

Monday 21st September 2020

Read the play script of Lady Macbeth receiving the news that King Duncan is coming to stay the night at Glamis Castle.

MACBETH

by William Shakespeare

Lady Macbeth's soliloquy

How appropriate that the messenger croaks like an ominous raven just as Duncan arrives in our fortress. Come, you evil spirits that influence human thoughts! Strip away my femininity and fill me from head to toe with cruelty! Make my blood so thick that it can't carry any feeling of guilt to my heart. Make it so that no kind of natural pity can prevent my cruel intentions from being carried out.

Come, you invisible creatures, from wherever you are conducting evil harm. Come, thick night, cover yourself with the murkiest smoke in hell. Make it so that even my knife won't see the wound it has made, and Heaven can't see through the blanket of the dark to yell, 'Stop, stop!'

What is a soliloquy?

Who is Lady Macbeth speaking to?

Why do you think Shakespeare made her say these words aloud?

Why could they be important to developing atmosphere in a story?

G	Soliloquy
A	Yourself
P	To reflect and express your inner thoughts

What genre of writing that we know of is most similar to a soliloquy in a play?

Macbeth's diary entry

Dear diary

My wife wants to kill the King.

Why on earth!? It's murder! Treason no less! I fear I have told her too much about the witch's prophecy. She is so determined – desperate even - to become Queen yet I do not think I could do it! Could I really KILL King Duncan? Lady Macbeth told me to 'Look like the innocent flower but be the serpent underneath it.' She certainly believes that I have the strength – the conviction – to commit such a deed. I'm not so sure that I do.

I worry about what she has planned. She can be so devious sometimes! Dare I say it – she scares me. As soon as I returned home today it was like she already had it all planned out. Beneath her beauty lies something far more sinister. Then again, she is intelligent... the most intelligent woman I have ever met! If anyone can pull this off, she can. Maybe I should trust her. Her plan – surely – will be fool proof. It is only one night...one deed. Tonight, King Duncan stays here, at Glamis castle. Lady Macbeth is convinced he won't ever leave. She has never let me down before, has she? No never. I should trust her. After all, she is doing this for us. For our future.... so we can rule Scotland. Well, I do kind of like the sound of that. I do hope she knows what she's doing. If we can pull this off...

Dare I believe it?

This could actually work.

Hopefully, when I write tomorrow, I will write of my success... of how I am to be crowned King.

What makes a diary a diary?

Informal/chatty language	Punctuation	Questioning himself