

Macbeth: 1.6



Slide 1: Teaching Notes

- 1.6 is a very short scene in which Duncan & entourage arrive at the Macbeth castle in Inverness.

Presentation Guide/Script

Ask students to focus on the image

Look at the picture. What can you see? A group of people carrying flags arriving at a castle. What time of day is it?

- The action moves for the first time to the Macbeth castle in Inverness.*
- King Duncan and his entourage arrive in just before sunset*
- He is impressed the peaceful surroundings and feels safe - a big mistake!*

Which flag?



Presentation Guide/Script

Ask students to focus on the flag/banner

Look at the picture. Does anyone recognise the flag? It's the Royal Banner of Scotland - sometimes known as the Lion Rampant. What does this tell us? That the king is visiting this castle.

DUNCAN

This castle hath a pleasant seat; the air
Nimbly and sweetly recommends itself
Unto our gentle senses.

Slide 3: Read from slide

- ❑ This statement is deeply ironic: the castle will be the scene of murder and treachery

Presentation Guide/Script

Read from slide

Seat here means aspect/or atmosphere. Duncan thinks he has arrived at a 'pleasant' home where he can relax. Unfortunately he needs a new hotel guide!

Duncan fatally misjudges Lady Macbeth



Slide 4: Read from slide

- ❑ Lady Macbeth lures Duncan to his death

Our honour'd hostess (*line 11*)

Fair and noble hostess/We are your guests tonight

(*lines 24-25*)

Slide 5: Read from slide

- Lady Macbeth will prove the opposite to a 'fair and noble hostess'.
- 'We are your guests tonight' The King is expressing the vulnerability that the Macbeths will exploit

Presentation Guide/Script

Read from slide

In Shakespeare's Macbeth King Duncan is a kind 'golden' king (the real King Duncan - not so nice!) Duncan honours his hostess and does not suspect treachery. Lady Macbeth is at her most wicked here, the 'serpent' she urged her husband to be

DUNCAN

Conduct me to mine host: we love him highly

Slide 6: Teaching Notes

- ❑ Duncan has just promoted Macbeth - he views him as his bravest and most loyal general.
- ❑ Macbeth will concede in the next scene that he has no moral justification for turning against Duncan ('He hath honour'd me of late' 1.7.32)

Presentation Guide/Script

Read from slide

In Shakespeare's Macbeth King Duncan is a kind 'golden' king (in real life - not so nice!) He honours his hostess and does not suspect treachery.