

Lady Macbeth – parallels in speech

Lady Macbeth said each of the paired lines below. Each pair contains a line from her sleepwalking scene and a line she said in an earlier scene. They have been paired because they refer to a common incident or situation, primarily the murders the Macbeths have committed. Some of them use an important common word.

Open your book to each of the earlier scenes, reacquaint yourself with the situation in the play at that time, and **write a summary paragraph of that situation** and a **summary of how the character feels as she delivers the line**.

Look back to the line from Act 5 and **write summary paragraphs of the situation** and the **character's feelings** as she delivers the line.

- A.** "Hell is murky" (5.1)
"Come, thick night,
And pall thee in the dunnest smoke of hell." (1.5)
- B.** "Fie, my lord, fie, a soldier and afeard?" (5.1)
"What, quite unmanned in folly? . . . Fie, for shame!" (3.4)
- C.** "Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him?" (5.1)
"Give me the daggers. The sleeping and the o'ersleeping
Are but as pictures. . . .
If he do bleed,
I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal. . . ." (2.2)
- D.** "The Thane of Fife had a wife. Where is she now?" (5.1)
"My hands are of your colour, but I have none
To wear a heart so white." (2.2)
- E.** "What, will these hands ne'er be clean?" (5.1)
"A little water clears us of this deed.
How easy is it, then!" (2.2)
- F.** "Wash your hands of this blood on your nightgown. Look not so pale." (5.1)
"Get on your nightgown, at occasion call us
And show us to our catchers." (2.2)
- G.** "I tell you yet again Banquo's buried; he cannot come out on 's grave." (5.1)
"Why do you make such faces? When all's done,
You look but on a tool." (3.4)
- H.** "To bed, to bed! There's knocking at the gate." (5.1)
"I hear knocking
At the south entry. Retire we to our chamber." (2.2)
- I.** "What's done cannot be undone." (5.1)
"What's done is done." (3.2)