

Use group work and peer assessment to interpret the significance of Lady Macbeth's role in the play.

When Macbeth hears an unusual cry

“I have almost forgot the taste of fears”

“I have sleep'd full of horrors;”

“The time has been my senses would have cool'd
To hear a night-shriek and my fell of hair
Would at a dismal treatise rouse and stir
As life were in't

When Macbeth hears that Lady Macbeth has died

“She should have died hereafter”

“Out, out brief candle”

“To-morrow and to-morrow and to-morrow,
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,
To the last syllable of recorded time;
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
The way to dusty death.

“life’s but a walking shadow, a poor player
That struts and frets his hour upon the
stage,
And then is heard no more;”

When he is giving the news that Birnam Wood is moving

“There is nor flying hence, nor
tarrying her.”

“I begin to be aweary of the sun,
And wish the estate of the world were now undone.”

“Ring the alarum-bell! Blow, wind! Come wrack!
At least we'll die with the harness on our back”

If the news had been...

Lady Macbeth hasn't killed herself but has made a full recovery

Lady Macbeth sends Macbeth a letter wishing him luck and she'll wait patiently for him

Lady Macbeth has joined Malcolm and his army

Lady Macbeth has committed suicide but wants Macbeth to know she'll meet him in the after-life

How would it have changed the course of the play?

In groups consider your scene. What would the impact on the play be if Lady Macbeth didn't feature in it?

As well as considering plot and character relationships, explore what the impact on the audience would be : what wouldn't they know / understand ...?

Act 1 scene 5: ... group

Act 1 scene 7: ... group

Act 2 scene 2: ... group

Act 3 scene 4: ... group

Act 5 scene 1: ... group