

4 What is the attitude of the audience at this point towards each character?

You might find the following expressions useful:

feel pity for... sympathetic towards... sorry for... feel no sympathy for...

5 Go back to Text two.

a Which lines uttered by Macbeth and Lady Macbeth in this scene are actually soliloquies? Why?

b What function do you think they fulfill?

● ● ● → **THE FILM:** *Macbeth*, p. 82

● ● ● → **THE MUSIC:** *Macbeth*, p. 90

This is the way the tragedy develops.

S U M M A R Y

Duncan's sons, who have run away abroad, are believed to be guilty of the king's murder. Macbeth wears the crown and, fearful of the witches' prophecy concerning Banquo, decides to get rid of his friend and his son; the former is killed but the latter escapes. Macbeth is haunted by the ghost of Banquo but he orders other killings in order to hold on to power. He goes back to see the Witches and their ambiguous words seem to assure him that nothing and nobody will ever endanger him and his throne. Lady Macbeth is eventually overcome by remorse. She is driven mad by the thoughts of the crimes to which she was an accomplice, then she commits suicide.

TARGETS of the conspiracy
↑
Malcom & Donald & Lennox

In the next extract you will hear Macbeth's words when he hears of his wife's death.

1 Read and decide.

a Which of the following adjectives describe how Macbeth comes over in these lines?

tired suffering cruel disillusioned fearless proud

b What is your attitude towards this altered Macbeth.

**16** Text three

From ACT V, Scene 5

SEYTON The queen, my lord, is dead.

MACBETH She should have died hereafter,
There would have been a time for such a word,
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. Out, out, brief candle!
Life's but a walking shadow¹, a poor player
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
And then is heard no more; it is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing.

SEYTON La regina è morta, signor mio!

MACBETH Avrebbe dovuto morire più tardi; non sarebbe mancato il momento opportuno per udire una simile parola. Domani, poi domani, poi domani: così, da un giorno all'altro, a piccoli passi, ogni domani striscia via fino all'ultima sillaba del tempo prescritto, e tutti i nostri ieri hanno rischiarato a degli stolti la via che conduce alla polvere della morte. Spengiti, spengiti, breve candela! La vita non è che un'ombra che cammina, un povero commediante che si pavoneggia e si agita, sulla scena del mondo, per la sua ora, e poi non se ne parla più; una favola raccontata da un idiota, piena di rumore e di furore, che non significa nulla.

(translated by C. Chiarini)

1. *shadow*, this word was an Elizabethan synonym for actor.