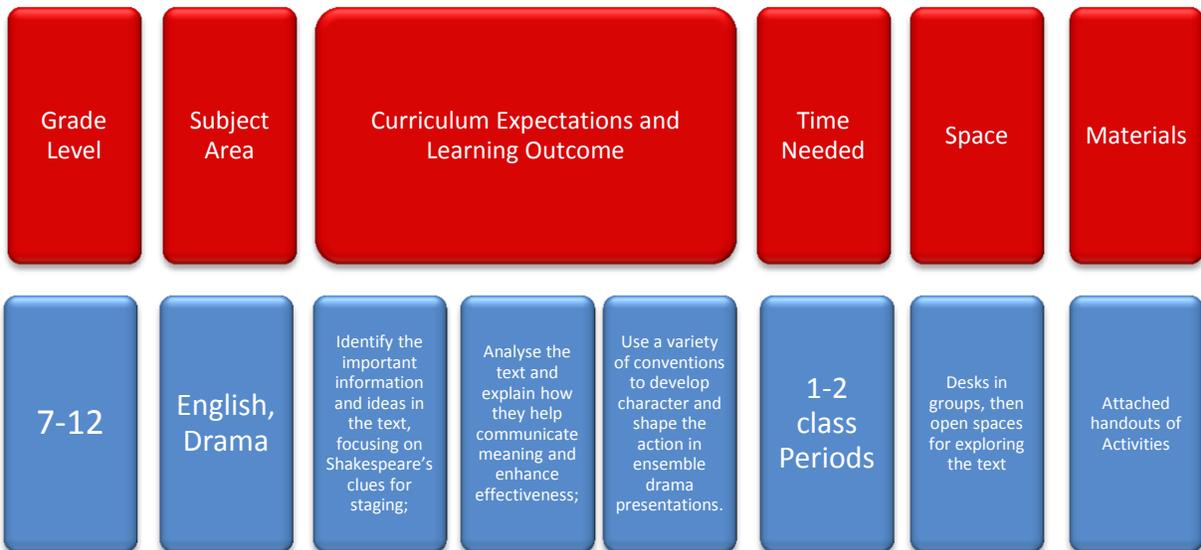
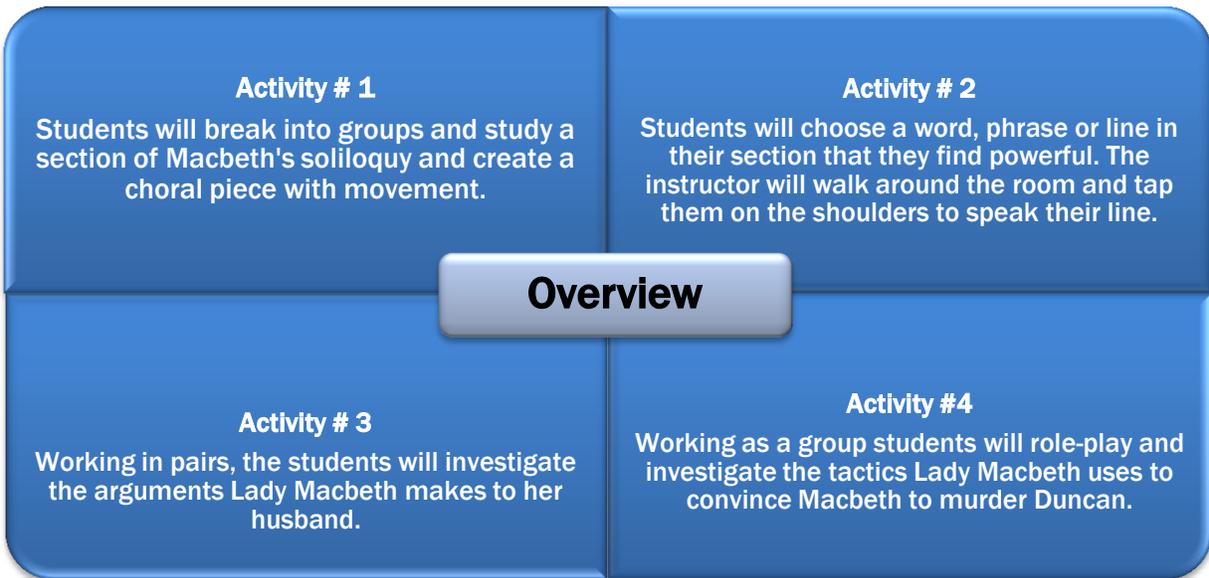


Imaginative Ways to Approach the Text

MACBETH – Discovering the Scene : A Look at Act I, scene 7



Activity # 1

Break up into 6 groups; each group will be assigned a section. Study the words and discuss the meaning with your group. Divide up the lines and speak chorally, adding movement with energy and physicality. Be creative and feel free to use a variety of ways to deliver the lines.

MACBETH

#	Section	Glossary
1.	If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well It were done quickly: if th' assassination Could <u>trammel up</u> ¹ the consequence and <u>catch</u> ² With his <u>surcease</u> ³ <u>success</u> ⁴ : <u>that but</u> ⁵ this blow Might be the be-all and the end-all – here, But here, upon this <u>bank and shoal</u> ⁶ of time, We'd <u>jump the life to come</u> ⁷ .	<i>1.entangle, trap; 2.seize, ensnare 3.ending, death; 4. outcome, good fortune; 5. If only 6.riverbank and shallow or bench and school 7.risk Heaven's punishment</i>
2.	But in these cases We <u>still</u> ¹ have judgment <u>here</u> ² , <u>that</u> ³ we but teach Bloody <u>instructions</u> ⁴ , which, being taught, return To plague <u>th'inventor</u> ⁵ : this even-handed justice <u>Commends</u> ⁶ th'ingredients of our poisoned <u>chalice</u> ⁷ To our own lips.	<i>1.always; 2.in this life; 3. In that 4.lessons 5.the teacher who created the instructions 6. presents, offers; 7.goblet (used in holy communion)</i>
3.	He's here in double trust: First, as I am his kinsman and his subject, <u>Strong both</u> ¹ against the deed: then, as his host, Who should against his murderer shut the door, Not bear the knife myself.	<i>1. both strong reasons</i>
4a.	Besides, this Duncan Hath borne his <u>faculties</u> ¹ so meek, hath been So <u>clear</u> ² in his great office, that his virtues Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against The deep damnation of his <u>taking-off</u> ³ :	<i>1.kingly powers 2.faultless 3.murder</i>
4b.	And pity, like a naked new-born babe, <u>Striding</u> ¹ the <u>blast</u> ² , or heaven's <u>cherubim</u> ³ , <u>horsed</u> ⁴ Upon the <u>sightless couriers</u> ⁵ of the air, Shall blow the horrid deed in every eye, <u>That</u> ⁶ <u>tears shall drown the wind</u> ⁷ .	<i>1.sitting astride; 2.storm; 3.angels; 4.on horseback 5.wind; invisible messengers 6. so that; 7. tears are plentiful to calm the wind</i>
5.	I have no spur To prick the sides of my intent, but only Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself And falls on th'other.	<i>like a rider on horseback he leaps too far and crashes to the ground /his ambition will collapse in failure</i>

Activity # 2

Find a line, phrase, or word in the text above that you find powerful in your section. Walk around the room and repeat it softly to yourself several times. Then, stand and space yourselves around the room. The instructor will walk around the room and tap you on the shoulder and you will speak your line, phrase, or word out loud. [Note: this may be underscored with music while you are saying your lines.]

Activity # 3

Look at Lady Macbeth's entrance and the arguments she presents. Working in partners, read the scene together out loud. What did you discover?

MACBETH

How now! what news?

Enter LADY MACBETH

LADY MACBETH

He has almost supped. Why have you left the chamber?

MACBETH

Hath he asked for me?

LADY MACBETH

Know you not he has?

MACBETH

We will proceed no further in this business:

He hath honoured me of late, and I have bought *I want to enjoy my improved reputation not throw it away so quickly*

Golden opinions from all sorts of people,

Which would be worn now in their newest gloss,

Not cast aside so soon.

LADY MACBETH

Was the hope drunk

Wherein you dressed yourself? Hath it slept since?

And wakes it now, to look so green and pale

sickly

At what it did so freely? From this time

Such I account thy love. Art thou afraid

afraid

To be the same in thine own act and valour

worth or importance due to personal qualities or rank

As thou art in desire? Wouldst thou have that

Which thou esteem'st the ornament of life,

life's highest achievement (the crown)

And live a coward in thine own esteem,

Letting 'I dare not' wait upon 'I would,'

Like the poor cat i' th' adage?

proverb about a cat who wanted to fish but was afraid of water

MACBETH

Prithee, peace.

I dare do all that may become a man:

Who dares do more is none.

LADY MACBETH

What beast was't, then,

That made you break this enterprise to me?

suggest killing Duncan

When you durst do it, then you were a man:

And to be more than what you were, you would

Be so much more the man. Nor time nor place

Did then adhere, and yet you would make both: *were at the time convenient*

They have made themselves, and that their fitness now *the time and place present themselves to murder*

Does unmake you. I have given suck, and know

breastfed

How tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me:

I would, while it was smiling in my face,

Have plucked my nipple from his boneless gums,

And dashed the brains out, had I so sworn as you

if I had promised

Have done to this.

MACBETH

If we should fail?

LADY MACBETH

We fail!

But screw your courage to the sticking-place

fix your courage firmly in place

And we'll not fail. When Duncan is asleep—

Whereto the rather shall his day's hard journey

Soundly invite him—his two chamberlains

attendants/bodyguards

Will I with wine and wassail¹ so convince²,

1. drinking 2. overpower

That memory, the warder of the brain,

guard or keeper

Shall be a fume¹, and the receipt² of reason *1. believed fumes of alcohol caused drunkenness 2. receptacle*

A limbeck¹ only: when in swinish sleep²

1. device for distilling alcohol 2. sleeping/snoring like pigs

Their drenchèd natures lie as in a death,

drunken

What cannot you and I perform upon
The unguarded Duncan? What not put upon
His spongy officers, who shall bear the guilt
Of our great quell?

impose
drink-sodden
slaughter, murder

MACBETH

Bring forth men-children only,
For thy undaunted mettle should compose
Nothing but males. Will it not be received,
When we have marked with blood those sleepy two
Of his own chamber and used their very daggers,
That they have done't?

spirit
interpreted

LADY MACBETH

Who dares receive it other,
As we shall make our griefs and clamour roar
Upon his death?

loud shouting or outcry

MACBETH

I am settled¹, and bend up²
Each corporal agent to this terrible feat.
Away, and mock the time with fairest show:
False face must hide what the false heart doth know.

1. unchanging 2. get ready (to make tense like the frame of a bow
every part of me
deceive the world

Exeunt

Activity # 4

Four people will go to the centre and choose a line each. They will represent Macbeth. Then choose 11 people to stand around the Macbeths in a circle, they will represent the Lady Macbeths. The Lady M's are to deliver the lines in a way to convince Macbeth to do the murder. The Macbeths respond with their given lines. This can be done chorally, alternating words/ lines, no set order is required – be creative! [NOTE: Cut up and distribute the lines to the Macbeths and Lady Macbeths.]

TRY THESE!

- a comforting or encouraging tone
- blame or humiliate
- interrogate
- cajole
- frighten
- inspire

What did you discover about Lady Macbeth's tactics?

MACBETH # 1

We will proceed no further in this business.

MACBETH # 2

He hath honoured me of late.

MACBETH #3

Prithee, peace.

MACBETH # 4

I dare do all that may become a man:
Who dares do more is none.

LADY MACBETH # 1

Was the hope drunk
Wherein you dressed yourself?

LADY MACBETH # 2

Hath it slept since?

LADY MACBETH # 3

And wakes it now, to look so green and pale
At what it did so freely?

LADY MACBETH # 4

From this time
Such I account thy love.

LADY MACBETH # 5

Art thou afeard
To be the same in thine own act and valour
As thou art in desire?

LADY MACBETH # 6

Wouldst thou have that
Which thou esteem'st the ornament of life,

LADY MACBETH # 7

And live a coward in thine own esteem,

LADY MACBETH # 8

Letting 'I dare not' wait upon 'I would,'
Like the poor cat i' th' adage?

LADY MACBETH # 9

What beast was't, then,
That made you break this enterprise to me?

LADY MACBETH # 10

When you durst do it, then you were a man:

LADY MACBETH # 11

And to be more than what you were, you would
Be so much more the man.