**Act 1, Scene 2 – The** **Aftermath**

**A camp near Forres.**

**DUNCAN**

What bloody man is that? He can report,  
As seemeth by his plight, of the revolt  
The newest state.

**MALCOLM**

This is the sergeant  
Who like a good and hardy soldier fought  
'Gainst my captivity. Hail, brave friend!  
Say to the king the knowledge of the broil  
As thou didst leave it.

**Activities:**

1. What is happening in this scene?
2. Highlight the simile the sergeant uses to describe the two armies. Why does the sergeant make this comparison? What does it tell you about the armies?
3. How is the villain, Macdonwald presented here? Highlight Shakespeare’s language choices and explain what they imply.
4. How is Macbeth presented by Duncan and the Sergeant? Highlight the adjectives used and explain what they suggest.
5. ‘Brandish’d steel, which smoked with bloody execution’ – What can we infer about the world Macbeth’s world. What does the past participle ‘smoked’ imply?
6. The Sergeant personifies Macdonwald’s luck in the battle. Highlight this example of personification. What does the Sergeant compare luck to and why?

**Sergeant**

Doubtful it stood;  
As two spent swimmers, that do cling together  
And choke their art. The merciless Macdonwald--  
Worthy to be a rebel, for to that  
The multiplying villanies of nature  
Do swarm upon him--from the western isles  
Of kerns and gallowglasses is supplied;  
And fortune, on his damned quarrel smiling,  
Show'd like a rebel's whore: but all's too weak:  
For brave Macbeth--well he deserves that name--  
Disdaining fortune, with his brandish'd steel,  
Which smoked with bloody execution,  
Like valour's minion carved out his passage  
Till he faced the slave;  
Which ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to him,  
Till he unseam'd him from the nave to the chaps,  
And fix'd his head upon our battlements.

INCREASING CHALLENGE

**DUNCAN**

O valiant cousin! worthy gentleman!