**Act 2, Scene 2 – After The Murder (Part 1)**

**Activities:**

1. What is happening in this scene?

2. Identify a metaphor in Lady Macbeth’s first speech. Explain what it means.

3. Look at the first half of the extract. What do the repeated use of exclamation marks suggest to us about Lady Macbeth’s thoughts?

4. Although Lady Macbeth claims she has been given ‘fire’, her confident façade seems to crumble somewhat in this scene, especially when she fears discovery. Highlight words/phrases that show this is true and explain your choices as annotations.

5. The second half of the extract contains shorter lines with a series of questions and answers. What does this do to the pace of the scene and what effect does it have?

6. Why do you think the murder of King Duncan happens off stage if it is such an integral plot point? What do you think is Shakespeare’s intention here?

**LADY MACBETH**

That which hath made them drunk hath made me bold;  
What hath quench'd them hath given me fire.  
Hark! Peace!  
It was the owl that shriek'd, the fatal bellman,  
Which gives the stern'st good-night. He is about it:  
The doors are open; and the surfeited grooms  
Do mock their charge with snores: I have drugg'd  
their possets,  
That death and nature do contend about them,  
Whether they live or die.

**MACBETH**

[Within] Who's there? what, ho!

**LADY MACBETH**

INCREASING CHALLENGE

Alack, I am afraid they have awaked,  
And 'tis not done. The attempt and not the deed  
Confounds us. Hark! I laid their daggers ready;  
He could not miss 'em. Had he not resembled  
My father as he slept, I had done't.

My husband!

**MACBETH**

I have done the deed. Didst thou not hear a noise?

**LADY MACBETH**

I heard the owl scream and the crickets cry.  
Did not you speak?

**MACBETH**

When?

**LADY MACBETH**

Now.

**MACBETH**

As I descended?

**LADY MACBETH**

Ay.