**Act 3, Scene 1 – Planning Banquo’s Murder (Part 2)**

**Activities:**

1. What is happening in this scene?
2. Pick THREE words and complete single word analysis on them. See if you can link your ideas to Macbeth’s characterisation and Shakespeare’s purpose.
3. Could it be argued that Macbeth truly becomes a hubristic character in this scene? Explain your ideas using ideas from the extract.
4. How does the final couplet recall Macbeth’s lines just before he kills Duncan? Why do you think Shakespeare uses couplets to signal the commencement of violent acts?
5. Why do you think the entrance of hired murderers presents Macbeth as politically powerful but morally weak? How has his approach to his enemies changed?

**MACBETH**

**Both Murderers**

We are resolved, my lord.

**MACBETH**

I'll call upon you straight: abide within.

*Exeunt Murderers*

It is concluded. Banquo, thy soul's flight,  
If it find heaven, must find it out to-night.

*Exit*

Both of you  
Know Banquo was your enemy.

**Both Murderers**

True, my lord.

**MACBETH**

So is he mine; and in such bloody distance,  
That every minute of his being thrusts  
Against my near'st of life: and though I could  
With barefaced power sweep him from my sight  
And bid my will avouch it, yet I must not,  
For certain friends that are both his and mine,  
Whose loves I may not drop, but wail his fall  
Who I myself struck down; and thence it is,  
That I to your assistance do make love,  
Masking the business from the common eye  
For sundry weighty reasons.

INCREASING CHALLENGE

**Second Murderer**

We shall, my lord,  
Perform what you command us.

**First Murderer**

Though our lives--

**MACBETH**

Your spirits shine through you. Within this hour at most  
I will advise you where to plant yourselves;  
Acquaint you with the perfect spy o' the time,  
The moment on't; for't must be done to-night,  
And something from the palace; always thought  
That I require a clearness: and with him--  
To leave no rubs nor botches in the work--  
Fleance his son, that keeps him company,  
Whose absence is no less material to me  
Than is his father's, must embrace the fate  
Of that dark hour. Resolve yourselves apart:  
I'll come to you anon.