**Act 3, Scene 4 – Banquo’s Ghost (Part 1)**

**Activities:**

1.What is happening in this scene?

2.Why would Macbeth be worried that Fleance is not dead?

3.If both Banquo and Fleance had been killed, Macbeth would be ‘whole as the marble, founded as the rock’. What do these similes imply?

4. Identify the metaphor Macbeth uses to describe Banquo and Fleance. Why does Macbeth compare Banquo to what he does? What are the connotations of this?

5.Look at the highlighted section of the extract. What is the effect of the alliteration of the hard ‘c’ sounds? What does it suggest about Macbeth’s feelings here?

**MACBETH**

There's blood on thy face.

**First Murderer**

'Tis Banquo's then.

**MACBETH**

'Tis better thee without than he within.  
Is he dispatch'd?

**First Murderer**

My lord, his throat is cut; that I did for him.

**MACBETH**

Thou art the best o' the cut-throats: yet he's good  
That did the like for Fleance: if thou didst it,  
Thou art the nonpareil.

INCREASING CHALLENGE

**First Murderer**

Most royal sir,  
Fleance is 'scaped.

**MACBETH**

Then comes my fit again: I had else been perfect,  
Whole as the marble, founded as the rock,  
As broad and general as the casing air:  
**But now I am cabin'd, cribb'd, confined, bound in****To saucy doubts and fears.** But Banquo's safe?

**First Murderer**

Ay, my good lord: safe in a ditch he bides,  
With twenty trenched gashes on his head;  
The least a death to nature.

**MACBETH**

Thanks for that:  
There the grown serpent lies; the worm that's fled  
Hath nature that in time will venom breed,  
No teeth for the present. Get thee gone: to-morrow  
We'll hear, ourselves, again.