**Act 5, Scene 8 – The Final Scene (Part 1)**

**Activities:**

1. What is happening in this scene?
2. Who do you think is in control in this scene? Explain your choice using quotations from the text.
3. Macduff’s choice of the epithet, ‘hell-hound’ confirms the true nature of the tyrant king. What is an ‘epithet’ and what are the connotations of ‘hell-hound’?
4. At what point do you think Macbeth realises his struggle for survival is over? Explain your ideas.
5. ‘I bear a charmed life’ – How is Macbeth’s hubristic nature demonstrated here?
6. Identify the simile used by Macbeth and explain what it means. What is Macbeth saying to Macduff? (HINT: Macbeth implies Macduff would have more luck trying to cut…)

**MACBETH**

Why should I play the Roman fool, and die  
On mine own sword? whiles I see lives, the gashes  
Do better upon them.

*Enter MACDUFF*

**MACDUFF**

Turn, hell-hound, turn!

**MACBETH**

Of all men else I have avoided thee:  
But get thee back; my soul is too much charged  
With blood of thine already.

INCREASING CHALLENGE

**MACDUFF**

I have no words:  
My voice is in my sword: thou bloodier villain  
Than terms can give thee out!

*They fight*

**MACBETH**

Thou losest labour:  
As easy mayst thou the intrenchant air  
With thy keen sword impress as make me bleed:  
Let fall thy blade on vulnerable crests;  
I bear a charmed life, which must not yield,  
To one of woman born.

**MACDUFF**

Despair thy charm;  
And let the angel whom thou still hast served  
Tell thee, Macduff was from his mother's womb  
Untimely ripp'd.