









Act & Scene	 Onstage (What is happening on stage)	 Offstage (What's happening unseen?)	 Power / tension (Where is power emerging or shifting?)	 Missing scene ideas	Characters/behaviours
I.i	Three witches meet in a deserted place, to discuss how they shall meet with Macbeth after the battle.	There's a battle, ongoing civil war, Macbeth is off fighting. Fair is foul and foul is fair	Witches are trying to influence events, by order of meeting with Macbeth. They communicate with dark spirits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Witches plan initially for this meeting, to set up some motivations - An origin of the witches, could tie them closer to the idea of 3 fates, or could establish the control held by the forces of darkness over them. 	Witches: Supernatural beings, have some pre-existing intention for macbeth, they either are a dark force, or act in it's name.
I.ii	The King and Malcom query a bloody soldier on the fate of the battle, hands off the thane if Cawdor's former title to be brought to Macbeth.	Macbeth's battle has happened. The sergeant goes to medics, Norwegian king has interfered.	Norway's king sends money to Scottish, to negotiate a peace for his benefit of Scottish land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Macbeth's victory against Cawdor's armies. Maybe the soldier that tells Duncan of the battle wasn't telling the whole truth of what happened. - Something that shows Cawdor's motive for betraying the King, maybe the witches provide another prophecy, maybe Norway's King conspires alongside him. 	King (Duncan): Seems to be well liked, and trusts his thanes a fair bit, sometimes even when they betray him. Seems to be a relatively good person Malcom: Takes a backseat this scene
I.iii	Witches greet Macbeth, with two prophecies, predicting him receiving Cawdor's title, and becoming king thereafter. They tell Banquo of his fate in paradox, to be greater and lesser, happier but less so, to be father of kings.	The witches vanish, to conspire further. The king proceeds with his surgery of the battle.	Macbeth realizes his new title, and the power of the title, and with it the notion he will be king through any means A trust and dependance on the witch's word by Macbeth is formed. .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The witches watching the exchange from aside, plotting on the participant's intent - Something to set a background for why the battles are happening in the first place, maybe establishing a dynamic between the King and the thanes. 	Macbeth: Initially cautious, but quick to believe a prophet that aligns with his ambitions. (Generally very ambitious), clearly has a tendency to scheme Banquo: Skeptical of macbeth and the witches, more level headed, harder to read.
I.iv	The king and Malcom discuss the execution of Cawdor, tells Macbeth he will grow him to be made powerful, and announces his eldest Malcom will become king in event of his death	The thane of Cawdor's execution goes through, the people of Cawdor hear about this somehow.	Macbeth sees Malcom as an obstacle to his rise to royalty and thinks to murder him in order to gain that power.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Macbeth travelling home with the news of the King's visit. He said he would be the messenger, but he also sends a messenger who arrives even earlier, so what's he doing in the gap between the messenger arriving and him. 	Macbeth: Is good at masking his intention, or Duncan is bad at reading people (past experience?)
I.v	Lady Macbeth reads the letter from Macbeth, resolves to aid him in becoming king - to give him the illness required by ambition. Together, they discuss the assassination of the King.	What lady Macbeth did in the time between the letter and the messenger, and the messenger and Macbeth. (There must be at least a few hours in there for some contemplation)	Lady Macbeth is established to have intense resolve to make Macbeth king, and to have a degree of power over Macbeth's intent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What lady Macbeth was doing for the time Macbeth was absent, what was she thinking might have been happening before she got the letter (why does she trust the witches so immediately, has she herself met with them) 	Lady Macbeth is also very ambitious, has a darkness and resolve to her thoughts and actions, manipulates Macbeth to get her way.
I.vi	The king enters the castle, and lady Macbeth greets him. She tries to convince him to go through with his dark ambitions to kill the King so he may have power.	Macbeth is doing something, preparing himself for what is to come.	The king feels a sense of trust in the castle that will spell his doom, and his hosts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Macbeth gets his own speech of resolve - Banquo devolves internally as he tries to monitor Macbeth (could be from feelings of worthlessness from his fate, or fear for Macbeth's actions). 	Duncan: Trusting, poor judge of character or danger
I.vii	Macbeth is unsure of whether he should kill Duncan, as his honour might be harmed, and Duncan does not deserve to die. His wife calls him cowardly, and convinces him that he won't be found guilty	Macbeth and Lady Macbeth continuing to entertain their guests until they retire, both knowing of their now-shared intent to kill Duncan.	Macbeth doesn't really want to kill the king, and bear the consequences. Lady Macbeth deeply wants him to,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Macbeth and Lady Macbeth preform the murder itself, the framing - Prior to the witches, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth talk of some Macbeth's ambitions to grow in power, to set up Macbeth as ambitious and susceptible to suggestion (that the lady know of). 	Macbeth: Has some rational thoughts against the murder of Duncan, trusts his wife's word under pressure. (Banquo basically does nothing despite probably knowing macbeth is thinking some crazy stuff)

Reflection on Act I

So far, Shakespeare has painted a fairly clear picture of how the characters act, but the "why" is still up for question; are some dark forces driving everything, or did they just set the plot in motion? The witches' prophecy might simply be a good reading of the current tensions in Scotland and foresight around the most likely next steps. It's also not hard to imagine that they could've set the stage for Macbeth long before their first lines. The witches start the play with the line "Fair is foul and foul is fair," which immediately sets up a reversed order of logic. In the first few scenes, Shakespeare establishes that Scotland is being affected in many ways by outside powers. There's the outside force of Norway, having some hand in the rebellions in Scotland led by the Thane of Cawdor, who is betraying Duncan. Cawdor's motives are never shown. Maybe the witches gave him a prophecy, just as they did Macbeth. Duncan's judgment continues to create opportunity for betrayal (seeing foul as fair). Perhaps this was something the witches saw and exploited. Macbeth's reception of the prophecy shows that he's quick to scheme. He seems to already be very receptive to the idea of the possibility that he could be king, as he almost immediately writes to his wife to tell her this once he has any basis for these beliefs. His wife is also a very dangerous character, as she sees Macbeth's desire and immediately resolves to make it so, despite any doubt he may hold. She calls on spirits and chooses to transgress the boundaries of traditional femininity, which would definitely telegraph her instability heavily to a Shakespearean audience due to the clear gender divide of the time. Throughout the whole act, I think one thing that strikes me as interesting not to include was any action by Banquo. He seems to be taking a backseat even if he probably knows that Macbeth might be up to something after hearing the prophecy and seeing Macbeth's reactions. It could be that while Macbeth saw action as the way to realize the prophecy, Banquo saw it as something that will happen on its own (or not). Shakespeare not including details of the witches' prior actions or plans builds on the mystery of the play's world.

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II.i	Banquo talks to Macbeth about the witches' prophecy with Macbeth denying having thought about it at all. He goes towards Duncan's room, contemplating the murder. The bell tolls signalling lady Macbeth's preparations are complete.	Banquo is probably going somewhere, could be talking to Fleance or thinking further of the witches' prophecy after macbeth sees. Duncan is going off to bed or something.	Macbeth is reminded that Banquo too knows of the witches' prophecy, which might make Macbeth see Banquo as a threat to his goals.	Lady macbeth preparing each part of the murder, talking through it to herself, fantasizing about the aftermath.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Banquo definitely remembers the prophecy, so his silence and inaction in act 1 seems almost more significant now, more morally stable - Macbeth is still fairly mentally affected by the prophecy of the murder, but already tries to lead banquo
II.ii	Lady macbeth has prepared the daggers with guards, meets again with Macbeth who shares of hearing a voice after he did the deed. Lady Macbeth implores him to go return the daggers, and upon his refusals goes to do it herself.	there could be a second passing of Banquo or another character before the scene starts while lady macbeth is waiting for the murder to take place.	Lady Macbeth either has a much weaker conscience than her husband, or a far greater determination to override it. Even though she wouldn't murder Duncan himself she's happy to clean up the mess if that keeps things going to plan.	While she's planting the daggers she might see the face of the king that looks so like her father and have a moment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lady macbeth might be using macbeth as a proxy for her darker deeds. By motivating him to commit the murder for her, she feels much more able to shake off the act. - Macbeth in a moment of stress forgot a crucial detail to the plan
II.iii	Macduff and Lennox arrive at Macbeth's castle, to rouse the king. Macduff finds Duncans body. Macbeth regrets having committed the crime, but weaves a tale of his innocence.	All the rest of the house must be roused, something happens with any of those characters, Malcom and Dolanbain travel	Macbeth's act of innocence draws on his guilt, the kings' sons see this as odd, and they see a personal risk in it.	Malcom and Donalbain go to Ireland and England, where they start to plan their personal next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Macbeth has sold the initial event, but even in his lie there's elements of truth.
II.iv	Old man and Ross discuss the strange circumstances surrounding Duncan's murder, Macduff talks about how it's suspicious that the Kings two sons have both disappeared.	Malcom and Donalbain leave to go try and figure out what to do. Macduff returns home.	Macbeth has gotten away with the murder for now, but there's still suspicion around the circumstances surrounding it, presenting some loose threads that Macbeth will need to clean up to maintain his newfound power.	Macduff returns home and starts investigating his suspicions of something being afoot.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Macduff is suspicious of the murders, and might not entirely trust Macbeth's title. - Malcom and Dolnalbain are no longer able to correct their
III.i	Banquo suspects Macbeth did foul play, but is hopeful his part of the prophecy might come true. Macbeth requests his presence at tonight's feast. Macbeth starts to think of the threat banquos side of the prophecy poses to his power, and proceeds to convince two murderers to kill Banquo.	Now that Macbeth is king, Lady Macbeth is coming to terms with her newfound power by proxy.	Macbeth now has far greater power and influence over his subjects as King, but he still sees that power as delicate until he fully cleans up his murderous rampage.	Macbeth meets with the Murderers for the first time, and does the first half of the convincing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Banquo is confirmed to know of the prophecy, and to suspect Macbeth in partaking in foul play. He still has confidence that his part of the prophecy will come to be through the natural order of things. - Despite pulling off the murder Macbeth still wants full security.
III.ii	Macbeth and his wife discuss how now that they've achieved their initial goals, they still dont feel happy or safe in it. Macbeth talks of how he has a fear of banquo's knowledge, but doesn't tell his wife his exact plans to keep her innocent of the knowledge.	Banquo is off on a ride with his son.	Now that he has power, Macbeth's fear of losing it continues to drive him forwards beyond his wife's knowledge. While she started him on this path, she now feels uneasy with it, and lets Macbeth carry forwards anyways.	Banquo might be out talking to Fleance of his suspicions of Macbeth, and trying to keep him safe so he has the potential to be king.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Macbeth and his wife still don't feel secure despite their newfound power.
III.iii	Banquo is murdered, he commands Fleance to escape (which he does).	Something (probably macbeth but maybe not) sends a third Murderer. Lady macbeth prepared for the banquet.	Macbeth going through will killing his friend shows how he's entrapped in his power, and how he	Macbeth getting even more paranoid about whether his plan to off Banquo will succeed, and deciding to send a third to do the deed. (Shows how he keeps getting himself into situations where he needs to let it be but doesn't)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Even as his plans are about to unfold, Macbeth is meddling, and creating opportunities for failure.





Reflection on Act II-Most of but not quite all of act III

When Macbeth and Banquo meet at the start of act II, they're on equal ground. By act III Macbeth has taken Duncan's power from Duncan, and sees Banquo as a threat to that power. In both cases, Banquo shares his thoughts on the prophecy that's driven Macbeth so heavily, while Macbeth keeps his true intentions masked. While Banquo does little of consequence throughout the act, Macbeth is at work moving towards the moment he can seize power. Leading up to, and throughout the murder itself Macbeth is still wanting power, and is being pushed forwards by Lady Macbeth's resolve. Macbeth taking power starts when he begins to publicly preform his innocence after Duncan's body is found, Killing Duncan only frees up his power to be taken, but Macbeth's performance actually shows him publicly positioning himself as worthy recipient of Duncan's power. This moment also marks when Lady Macbeth starts to fade into the background, after the consequences of her actions become public.

Macbeth's rise to power is essentially unobstructed as Duncan's sons choose to flee to neighbouring countries, but they still pose a threat to him. Macbeth sees his power as having an unstable foundation, and as a result is becoming even less trusting. Macbeth still sees the prophecy as a guideline that requires active pursuit, and he sees banquo's knowledge of the prophecy and his son's involvement as a threat. His decision to enlist people to murder banquo without telling his wife shows that he's now much more attuned to his power. It also might show that he's giving Lady Macbeth less involvement in his plans to ease her guilt, or that he's trying to keep his plans entirely private.

As banquo's Murderers are preparing to do the deed, Macbeth sends a third one as a result of some offstage decision. This might show that he didn't trust the first two, or that he didn't even trust his own judgement. Following this, the attempt on banquo and Fleance's life only half succeeds as the light is put out. One interpretation of this could be that the third murderer caused the plan to fail, which would mean that by second-guessing his plan once it was in motion, Macbeth weakened it's effect greatly. Another interesting interpretation could be that the third was sent by one of the witches as they do seem to like groupings of three, and that they're starting to lay the stage for Macbeth's demise (The witches saving Fleance could also have been an interpretation I imagine the king would've found interesting).

By the end of this section, Duncan's poor judgement, and tendency to over-trust has lead to him dying and Macbeth's public performance has let him take that power. As lady Macbeth retreats into the sidelines of the action, Macbeth is left to his own devices, and it seems like the play is setting the stage for his distrust and reliance on private decisions will spell his demise.

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III.iv	Macbeth hears Banquo has died, but that Fleance has escaped. On returning to the dinner, he sees Banquo as a ghost, and starts to lose his wits at the sight. After Lady Macbeth recovers the situation as much as she can, bidding the lords goodbye, Macbeth says he has an intention to meet with the witches.	Fleance is escaping, hiding somewhere.	Macbeth's plans are starting to fall apart.		
III.v (no???, putting this in anyways because it connects to my original thought about who is controlling the witches)	Hecate berates the three witches for talking to macbeth, and outlines the next steps in her plan to exploit Macbeth's overconfidence to destroy him when he next calls on them.	Macbeth making his way towards the witches. Lady macbeth is on her own at the castle.	The witches' motivation has been revealed, and they are shown to not just be lone operators. It's also shown that the dark forces that govern the play have been	The witches deciding to meet with macbeth without Hecate involved. Hecate originally gathering intelligence on macbeth and informing the witches.	- Hecate, has power over the withces - The three witches are under hecate's rule, but also choose to disobey or do something that would upset her.
III.vi (no?)	Lennox and a second Scottish Lord talk about how they're certain Macbeth is responsible for Duncan's murder.				
IV.i	Macbeth visits the weird sisters, they show him the three visions that will exploit his ambition and overconfidence. After hearing this, Lennox tells him that Macduff has left to England and Macbeth decides to kill everyone in his castle.	Hecate is probably watching this exchange, and she likely sees it as the final nail in Macbeth's coffin. Macduff getting ready to leave, and subsequently leaving.	Macbeth has fully fallen for the ploys of Hecate, and is now solidly on the path to destruction. While he has gained power over the kingdom, he is also powerless in his fate unless his nature as a character changes.	Lennox finding out Macuff has left, and trying to decide whether or not to actually tell Macbeth.	- To Macbeth, his overconfidence is entirely justified, as he now has prophecy detailing a seemingly impossible set of requirements for his death. Since he wants to take it as him being immortal, he doesn't think into them further,
IV.ii	Ross and lady macduff discuss how Macduff suddenly disappeared for England and left his family, after Ross leaves the Murderers do their thing and murder Macduff's son, and chase away his wife.	Macbeth could be publicly declaring Macduff as a traitor, which without sound reason might cause confusion of the public.	Macbeth is still executing his power over people to try and tie up loose ends	- Something that incites macduff's decision to leave and gather help to take down macduff.	- Macduff
IV.iii (no)	- Macduff arrives in englad, convinces Malcom to come bring millitary, ross tells macduff his family has been murdered.				
V.i	Lady Macbeth is sleepwalking, and talks about what she and her husband have done, repeating actions like washing her hands. The doctor recommends a watch be kept on her.	Macbeth is rallying for a war that he knows is coming, He's been fully taken by his overconfidence and ambition.	As much as lady macbeth pushed on macbeth, and brushed off their actions, it seems to be weighing on her much more heavily. Her distress over all of Macbeth's actions show that she realizes how much harm she's enable.d	The Doctor and the Gentlewoman discuss what they should do with the information Lady Macbeth has shared, should they even tell the king what they know for risk of becoming a target.	- Lady Macbeth, was likely hiding the true scope of her thoughts towards the Murder of King Duncan, and even her husband's past conquests. (Or she had a revelation about the moral implications of everything) and is now losing her mind.
V.ii	Scottish soldiers make their way to Birnam Wood, in order to meet with Malcom's soldiers from England. Lords (incl, Lennox, Angus) discuss how macbeth is internally tormented and that people only follow him for fear.	Macbeth is fortifying Dunsinane castle, Malcom's army is at Birnham wood. The nobles decided prior to then to desert macbeth, and meet with English forces.	Macbeth is starting to lose himself to rage at his betrayal by Macuff, and the potential he might lose his power (even though he so heavily relies on the prophecy to say that will not happen)	Malcom and the Lords plan out how best to tackle macbeth, the lords suggest the battle is already lost.	
V.iii	Macbeth learns that Nobles are deserting him, and that the army of the English soldier is approaching. In preparing for leaving, Macbeth also learns that his wife is becoming troubled, to which macbeth simply says to fix her, he puts on his full armour and tries to cling to the vestibules of power he still has.	The combined forces are continuing to approach, lady Macbeth is falling worse of her condition.	Macbeth is unilaterally focused at maintaining how power by all means necessary, but his overconfidence is leading him to act rashly. He's clinging to everything that represents the little power he still has, but nothing else. The trees moving shows his reaction to losing the power of prophecy.	Macbeth goes to visit his wife, but sees she is succumbed to her madness, and immediately casts her off as an immediate problem.	- Macbeth,
V.iv (no add?)					
V.v	Macbeth learns his wife has died, and remarks only on the meaningless of life. He feels confident in his castle's strength, until he learns the wood begins to move and starts to act in anger and fear as his confidence breaks.	Lady macbeth being driven death, the servants starting to see everything collapse. The servants of the castle might be feeling to not get caught in the battle	Even as his wife dies, he pays no mind to it, as it doesn't affect his immediate situation.	Lady macbeth breaking into a moment of clarity, and suddenly deciding to end her life.	
V.vi	Malcom commands sward to lead the attack into Macbeth's castle	Macbeth sees this happening, and decides to simply confront them.	Macbeth is cornered, he still has some small vestiges of power in his castle, but a castle without staff to defend it is really no safer than a house. His only true defence is confidence, which is falsely informed.		
V.vii	Macbeth steps out of his castle, to challenge the attackers, killing young sward. Macduff searches for Macbeth to fight him.	Whatever army Macbeth still had have now surrendered, and some are fighting against any who still remain loyal.	Macbeth fell for every step of the witches' plan, and is being fully lead along in an un-winnable situation by nothing but blind confidence in false prophecy. He's abandoning all safety for his pride and power.	The Scottish nobles convincing Macbeth's soldiers to join their cause, by showing how his power is nothing more than a performance at this point.	
V.viii	Macbeth, breaking down, encountered macduff and fights him, bragging of his power through the prophecy. He learns that macduff was not born naturally, and realizes all of the safeties promised to him by the witches are falling apart. So as not to lose his pride, he chooses to fight macduff to the death, and dies.	Macbeth being beheaded, Malcom becoming king.	Macbeth ultimately loses his power, and his life, in order to maintain any semblance of pride he had. He's lost everything, all because of his ambition.	Malcom being officially crowned king. The Scottish people reacting to the changes towards a more English ruling structure.	

Reflection on act III scene IV to act V scene VIII

While the first act establishes Macbeth's private ambition, and the second and third acts show him acting to fully realize his power, the final acts show him being swept away by both. Throughout this section, we see Macbeth's perception of his own power diverging from reality. Once Macbeth's power becomes public it's stability relies on public approval, something Macbeth fails to recognize or address. His decisions and actions continue to be largely private, with his motives sometimes even being hidden to the audience.

The sighting of Banquo's ghost seems to mark a point where many of the circumstances that enabled Macbeth's success is now gone. His credibility is degrading, both from being suspected as being part of Duncan's murder, and from his strange behaviours as King. Lady Macbeth's cunning is lost as she descends into madness, and the witches' prophecy has been fulfilled, and no longer guides him. Finally, Macbeth feels he can trust no-one, leading him to neglect Duncan's court, a crucial part of his power as king. Macbeth still has his ambition. Without any guardrails all of his decisions that follow are entirely private, and driven only by his internal goals.

All of this ultimately leads to base of Macbeth's power slowly degrading, without Macbeth consciously noticing it. His subconscious sees the shaky foundation, but his conscious chooses to maintain his power through force rather than cooperation. He has no loyalty to his men, and all that holds them to him is his power, which quickly collapses.

Despite now ruling almost entirely under his own judgment, Macbeth still lacks confidence, likely recognizing in some part the absence of the guide rails of the first half of the play. This drives him to seek out external validation and security through the witches. The Introduction of Hecate as the driving force behind the witches means that this interaction is somewhat different from the first. Hecate's monologue shows that the witches' initial attempts to manipulate Macbeth as a much less nefarious interaction as what is to come.

Hecate's monologue also solidifies the idea that Macbeth's final fate is ultimately due to his ambition, from his own actions, to Hecate's final judgement. Maybe even Lady Macbeth's descent into madness was driven by guilt, but manifested as a consequence of her calling upon dark spirits in act I.

AS everything is falling apart, lady Macbeth's death reinforces the idea that a lot more has been happening behind the scenes than what Macbeth or the audience sees. Macbeth has only really seen Lady Macbeth as the cunning wife, and save for a few brief moments in act 5, that's all we're shown of her. I think that what's shown in the play largely mirrors what Macbeth would be most aware of, even if only subconsciously.

Ultimately, the play ends with Macbeth's defeat, carried away by his overconfidence until the end. Macbeth reaches into every vestige of power he sees as viable to try to maintain his rule, but his base perception of his power is so warped through the witches' deception that he doesn't even see his actual power as king abandoning him. A king is no more than his kingdom, and by his death, Macbeth has none.