

Macbeth, Act 2.1
Dagger Soliloquy

Name: _____



Directions: You are the director of a short-film illustrating this soliloquy. Create a "storyboard" to plan your shots. Draw images in the attached sheet to illustrate **particular moods, words, or phrases** from a section of text that interests you. Include the text. For example, you might draw a close-up of Macbeth's eyes ("mine eyes" II,i.44), then a wide-shot of a group of fools laughing ("the fools o' the other senses" (II,i.44). Feel free to explore alternate meanings or unusual representations of the text.

Macbeth:

Is this a dagger which I see before me,
The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee.
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.
Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible
To feeling as to sight? or art thou but
A dagger of the mind, a false creation,
Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?
I see thee yet, in form as palpable
As this which now I draw.
Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going;
And such an instrument I was to use.
Mine eyes are made the fools o' the other senses,
Or else worth all the rest; I see thee still,
And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood,
Which was not so before. There's no such thing:
It is the bloody business which informs
Thus to mine eyes. Now o'er the one halfworld
Nature seems dead, and wicked dreams abuse
The curtain'd sleep; witchcraft celebrates
Pale **Hecate's**¹ offerings, and wither'd murder,
Alarum'd by his **sentinel**², the wolf,
Whose howl's his watch, thus with his stealthy pace.
With **Tarquin**³'s ravishing strides, towards his design
Moves like a ghost. Thou sure and firm-set earth,
Hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fear
Thy very stones prate of my whereabouts,
And take the present horror from the time,
Which now suits with it. Whiles I threat, he lives:
Words to the heat of deeds too cold breath gives.

¹ Goddess of witchcraft

² gaurd

³ Roman King

Questions:

1. How would you read this soliloquy? What **tone** would you use and why (give specific passages which help you make this decision)? How would Macbeth sound? Your answer should be approximately five sentences long. [Use the tone sheet attached for help.](#)
2. **Summarize in a paragraph** what we learn about Macbeth from this soliloquy. How does Macbeth feel about the murder beforehand? Why does he do it anyway?. Based on how he feels beforehand, how do you think he will feel afterwards? 3-5 sentences.