

Hook, Probe, Deflect

Part of the Shakespeare 101 Series

at 'Let Him Roar Again'

Step by Step Instructions:

1. Choose a scene or duologue for students to work with. For this example, I used an abridged version of *Macbeth*, Act I, Scene vii. The excerpt can be found below.
2. Introduce students to the following three physical actions: Hook, Probe and Deflect. You may like to allow students to decide together what those gestures will look like for the class. This will encourage ownership of the physical action and help some students to feel less awkward in this transition to making more decisions in working physically with the text.
3. Students read the selected dialogue in character. For each line they should decide whether the character is hooking the other character(s) in, probing for more information or deflecting. It may be helpful to write these down beside each line or to highlight each intention in a different colour. For example, Hook may be highlighted in blue, Probe may be green and Deflect may be yellow.
4. Students then read the dialogue again while adding the physical gesture that the class has decided on in Step 2.
5. The teacher may then choose to have one or two pairs demonstrate their decisions for the class. The class could then reflect on how many of the decisions were the same for each pair in the class? Were there any lines that differed across the class? For example, did some pairs deliver the third line as a hook and others as a probe and still others as a deflect?
6. Extension -
Students could then experiment with using other actions for the lines. How does substituting a hook for a deflect impact on the relationship between characters in the scene? What does a change in decision here reveal about the characters?

Macbeth - Act I, Scene vii

Enter LADY MACBETH

- MACBETH** How now! what news?
- LADY MACBETH** He has almost supp'd: why have you left the chamber?
- MACBETH** Hath he ask'd for me?
- LADY MACBETH** Know you not he has?
- MACBETH** We will proceed no further in this business:
He hath honour'd me of late; and I have bought
Golden opinions from all sorts of people,
Which would be worn now in their newest gloss,
Not cast aside so soon.
- LADY MACBETH** Was the hope drunk
Wherein you dress'd yourself? hath it slept since?
And wakes it now, to look so green and pale
At what it did so freely? From this time
Such I account thy love.
- MACBETH** Prithee, peace:
I dare do all that may become a man;
Who dares do more is none.
- LADY MACBETH** What beast was't, then,
That made you break this enterprise to me?
When you durst do it, then you were a man;
And, to be more than what you were, you would
Be so much more the man.
- MACBETH** If we should fail?
- LADY MACBETH** We fail!
But screw your courage to the sticking-place,
And we'll not fail.