

# Introducing Duologues

## Part of the Shakespeare in the Classroom Series

### at 'Let Him Roar Again'

#### Step by Step Instructions:

1. Warm up using the game 'Yes/No Arguments'. Students work in pairs. Each student chooses Yes or No as their 'weapon'. They must not use body language to help them. After a time students should swap over and use the other 'weapon'. Raise the stakes. How much does your character want this?
2. Now add text from *Macbeth*.

Macbeth:       What hands are here? Ha, they pluck out mine eyes.

Lady M:        A little water clears us of this deed.

3. The Eye Contact Game. Try using the text below from Act II, Scene ii with Macbeth trying to make eye contact and Lady Macbeth trying to avoid it. Then switch, Lady Macbeth trying to make eye contact and Macbeth avoiding it.
4. Hit the page: On the last word of each line, on repetition of words, on repetition of sounds, on any word that feels important.
5. Add an intention: What do I want? How do I get it? (Use simple tactics at first - Hook Investigate, Deflect, Block).
6. Physicalise the intention: Step in/Step out/Step the the side as a way of doing this.
7. Put it all together. Students use what they have learnt from the steps above to present their duologues to the class.
8. Reflect on the different choices made. What does this tell us about the characters and the freedom that Shakespeare gives for interpretation?

## **Macbeth, Act II, Scene ii**

*Enter LADY MACBETH*

**LADY MACBETH**

That which hath made them drunk hath made me bold;

What hath quench'd them hath given me fire.

Hark! Peace!

It was the owl that shriek'd, the fatal bellman,

Which gives the stern'st good-night. He is about it:

The doors are open; and the surfeited grooms

Do mock their charge with snores: I have drugg'd

their possets,

That death and nature do contend about them,

Whether they live or die.

**MACBETH**

*[Within]* Who's there? what, ho!

**LADY MACBETH**

Alack, I am afraid they have awaked,

And 'tis not done. The attempt and not the deed

Confounds us. Hark! I laid their daggers ready;

He could not miss 'em. Had he not resembled

My father as he slept, I had done't.

*Enter MACBETH*

My husband!

**MACBETH**

I have done the deed. Didst thou not hear a noise?

**LADY MACBETH**

I heard the owl scream and the crickets cry.

Did not you speak?

**MACBETH**

When?

**LADY MACBETH**

Now.

**MACBETH**

As I descended?

**LADY MACBETH**

Ay.

**MACBETH**

Hark!

Who lies i' the second chamber?

**LADY MACBETH**

Donalbain.

**MACBETH**

This is a sorry sight. (*Looking on his hands*)

**LADY MACBETH**

A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight.

**MACBETH**

There's one did laugh in's sleep, and one cried

'Murder!'

That they did wake each other: I stood and heard them:  
But they did say their prayers, and address'd them  
Again to sleep.

**LADY MACBETH**

There are two lodged together.

**MACBETH**

One cried 'God bless us!' and 'Amen' the other;  
As they had seen me with these hangman's hands.  
Listening their fear, I could not say 'Amen,'  
When they did say 'God bless us!'

**LADY MACBETH**

Consider it not so deeply.

**MACBETH**

But wherefore could not I pronounce 'Amen'?  
I had most need of blessing, and 'Amen'  
Stuck in my throat.

**LADY MACBETH**

These deeds must not be thought  
After these ways; so, it will make us mad.

**MACBETH**

Methought I heard a voice cry 'Sleep no more!  
Macbeth does murder sleep', the innocent sleep,  
Sleep that knits up the ravell'd sleeve of care,  
The death of each day's life, sore labour's bath,

Balm of hurt minds, great nature's second course,

Chief nourisher in life's feast,--

**LADY MACBETH**

What do you mean?

**MACBETH**

Still it cried 'Sleep no more!' to all the house:

'Glamis hath murder'd sleep, and therefore Cawdor

Shall sleep no more; Macbeth shall sleep no more.'

**LADY MACBETH**

Who was it that thus cried? Why, worthy thane,

You do unbend your noble strength, to think

So brainsickly of things. Go get some water,

And wash this filthy witness from your hand.

Why did you bring these daggers from the place?

They must lie there: go carry them; and smear

The sleepy grooms with blood.

**MACBETH**

I'll go no more:

I am afraid to think what I have done;

Look on't again I dare not.

**LADY MACBETH**

Infirm of purpose!

Give me the daggers: the sleeping and the dead

Are but as pictures: 'tis the eye of childhood

That fears a painted devil. If he do bleed,  
I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal;  
For it must seem their guilt.

*Exit. Knocking within*

**MACBETH**

Whence is that knocking?  
How is't with me, when every noise appals me?  
What hands are here? ha! they pluck out mine eyes.  
Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood  
Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will rather  
The multitudinous seas in incarnadine,  
Making the green one red.

*Re-enter LADY MACBETH*

**LADY MACBETH**

My hands are of your colour; but I shame  
To wear a heart so white.

*Knocking within*

I hear a knocking  
At the south entry: retire we to our chamber;  
A little water clears us of this deed:  
How easy is it, then! Your constancy  
Hath left you unattended.

*Knocking within*

Hark! more knocking.

Get on your nightgown, lest occasion call us,  
And show us to be watchers. Be not lost  
So poorly in your thoughts.

**MACBETH**

To know my deed, 'twere best not know myself.

*Knocking within*

Wake Duncan with thy knocking! I would thou couldst!

*Exeunt*