MALCOLM

Key features · development · paired evidence

THE BIG IDEA

Malcolm learns caution in a court where appearances deceive. His return offers political repair after Macbeth's rule.

FOLLOW THE CHARACTER

1 Flees danger › **2** Tests loyalty › **3** Organises resistance › **4** Restores the succession

CAUTION BECOMES JUDGEMENT

"This murderous shaft"

Malcolm, 2.3

PAIRED WITH

"What I am truly"

Malcolm, 4.3

METHOD → MEANING

The image of an arrow still in flight makes danger seem unfinished after Duncan's death. In testing Macduff, Malcolm temporarily disguises himself before revealing his account of his true character.

A WOUNDED COUNTRY AND REPAIR

"It weeps, it bleeds"

Malcolm about Scotland, 4.3

PAIRED WITH

"by the grace of Grace"

Malcolm, 5.9

METHOD → MEANING

Personification makes Scotland a suffering body. The final religious language proposes a different basis for rule from Macbeth's fear and private ambition.

PUSH THE ARGUMENT

His invented vices in 4.3 are part of a test; do not quote them as a straightforward confession of what he is really like.

COVER THE SHEET. CAN YOU EXPLAIN…?

How does Malcolm's testing of Macduff respond to the danger that killed Duncan?