

How is Malcolm presented within the play Macbeth? [25]

Malcolm – Key Moments

- 1) **Malcolm** – who is he? What is our impression of him? ‘My liege’ ‘Your highness’
- 2) **The news of Malcolm being announced as heir to the throne** – ‘that is a step on which I must fall down...for in my way it lies.’ – Why is this announcement significant?
- 3) **‘Let’s not consort with them...our safest way is to avoid the aim.’** – What is Malcolm’s reaction following the death of his father?
- 4) **Donalbain** ‘There’s daggers in men’s smiles’ – Where does Malcolm flee to? Why?
- 5) **His suspicion of Macduff.** ‘This tyrant, whose sole name blisters our tongues, was once thought honest, you have loved him well.’ – Why does Malcolm say this to Macduff?
- 6) **The test.** ‘Were I king, I should cut off the nobles for their lands’ How does Malcolm test Macduff? ‘O Scotland, Scotland!’ – What is Macduff’s reaction to these comments?
- 7) **‘Macduff, this noble passion, child of integrity, hath from my soul wip’d the black scruples.’** – How does Malcolm view Macduff following the test?
- 8) **In response to the news of Macduff’s family’s slaughter** – ‘Dispute it like a man’ – what is Malcolm encouraging Macduff to do?
- 9) **‘But I must feel it as a man’** – What does Macduff teach Malcolm in this moment?
- 10) **‘Let grief convert to anger, blunt not the heart, enrage it.’** – What does this comment from Malcolm show about his understanding of emotion now?
- 11) **‘Thereby shall we shadow the numbers of our host.’** – How does Malcolm plan to use Birnam Wood as part of their attack?
- 12) **‘Hail, King of Scotland!’** – How does the play end? What message is Shakespeare trying to give with this ending?
- 13) **‘Dead butcher’ ‘fiend-like queen’** – What do these final comments by Malcolm show about Macbeth and Lady Macbeth’s reputation?
- 14) **Malcolm discusses ‘grace’ and ‘thanks’ in his final speech** – why is this significant? Why is it telling the Malcolm has the last words of the play?
- 15) **Conclusion** – what is Malcolm’s role within the play?