The sleep-walking scene
Act 5 scene 1

Whilst she is asleep, Lady Macbeth speaks aloud, and the audience (along with the doctor and gentlewoman) get a glimpse of her real fears and feelings.

Find something she says that shows us that she is
- feeling guilty
- feeling afraid
- feeling confused

Write each example you find in a separate speech bubble.
**Buried Memories**

What is Lady Macbeth remembering as she sleeps? Match up her words in Act 5 scene 1 with the events that are now coming back to haunt her:

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Fie my Lord, fie, a soldier and afraid.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>She’s remembering when she tried to calm Macbeth down after he’d seen Banquo’s ghost.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>She’s remembering what she told Macbeth to do after the murder of Duncan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>The Thane of Fife had a wife. Where is she now?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>She’s remembering how she persuaded Macbeth to murder Duncan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>No more o’ that my lord... You mar all with this starting.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>She remembers her fear when someone arrived at the castle after Duncan had been killed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Wash your hands, put on your nightgown...</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>She remembers what she saw when she took the daggers back to the king’s bedroom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>There’s knocking at the gate</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>She wonders what has happened to Lady Macduff.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How do you feel about Lady Macbeth at this point in the play? Tick every statement you agree with:

- She deserves to be suffering now because she helped to kill an innocent, defenceless old man.
- She deserves our sympathy because she is very upset and could be suicidal.
- She has given up her own sanity for the sake of her husband. She only wanted the best for him.
- She needs someone to confess her sins to, then she could be forgiven by God.
- If you mess around with evil like she did, you will have to face the consequences.
- She was never really evil; she simply acted tough in order to help Macbeth.
- It’s sad that her life is ending like this.
- She should never have interfered by persuading Macbeth to kill Duncan. It’s all her fault.
- She has drifted apart from Macbeth and seems very lonely.

© 2003 www.teachit.co.uk m236lady.doc
THEN and NOW
Looking back at Lady Macbeth in Act 1 scenes 6 and 7

Take words from the central column to help you plan an explanation of how Lady Macbeth changes in the course of the play. You don’t have to use all the words, and you can add any new ones of your own you think of. (An example has been done for you.)

| Act 1 scene 6 | alone scheming clever in control confident nervous excited calm excited pathetic powerful guilty afraid acting cruel confused fearless brave ruthless close to Macbeth ambitious aggressive weak masculine feminine bossy heartless |
| Act 1 scene 7 | acting | Act 5 scene 1 |

© 2003 www.teachit.co.uk  m236lady.doc 3
'WHAT IS SHE LIKE?' Writing a comparison

Now you are ready to start writing about how Lady Macbeth appears in the last Act of the play, comparing her with how she appears early on.
♦ Use the notes you have made on the last page and the frame below to help you express your ideas.
♦ Whenever you make a point remember to use details from a scene or the actual words spoken by a character to support your point.

By comparing Lady Macbeth's words and actions in Act 5 scene 1 with her words and actions in Act 1 scenes 6 and 7, explain how and why she has changed.

At the start of the play Lady Macbeth seems ............
We can see this in Act 1 scene 6 when she...................
She is also..........and shows this in Act 1 scene 7 when.....
When Lady Macbeth...................... it shows that she......
We get the impression that she is............... because .......
Macbeth , on the other hand, seems ..................................So, by the end of Act 1 the audience may feel that Lady Macbeth.....

However, by Act 5 scene 1 ...........................................
When she appears in this scene she is ........and...........
She is talking about ..........which shows that she.......... 
This is very different from ............when she ..............
She obviously feels ..................because....................
In contrast to ........................................she now .......
Whereas once she ..............................she now..............
The audience may now feel..................because............

There are many reasons why she ..............................
First ly........................
Another reason ............
Above all...
In conclusion, ..............
What does she write?

The gentlewoman tells the doctor that Lady Macbeth has been writing something whilst she has been sleepwalking. Perhaps this is a letter to Macbeth, or perhaps a confession. What do you think? Using the words in the box to help you if you need them, write what you imagine she might have written on the paper.

confess persuade memory water wash consequences guilt regret murder blood afraid dark sleep fault wish forget daggers innocent unguarded Duncan conscience result Banquo witches husband bodyguards Macbeth drunk bell supper pretended act woman baby ambitious sorry forgive punishment
Act 5 scene 3  Who wants to be a millionaire - or King of Scotland?

Test your knowledge of how Macbeth reacts in this scene.

1. Why does Macbeth appear so confident at the start of the scene?
   A: There are only 20 English soldiers at the castle gate.
   B: He has been told by spirits that he will not be harmed by anyone born of woman
   C: He has very tough armour on
   D: Malcolm is only a boy

2. What colour is the servant's face when he enters with bad news?
   A: Black
   B: Red
   C: White
   D: Green

3. What news does the servant bring?
   A: There are geese outside the castle walls
   B: The thanes have all left the castle
   C: The doctor has arrived
   D: There are 10,000 enemy soldiers waiting to attack the castle

4. When Macbeth first hears this news, what does he feel?
   A: Very confident
   B: Pleased that he has so many friends to support him
   C: Glad he became king, inspite of the problems
   D: Very depressed, wishing he was dead

5. When the news is confirmed, what does Macbeth decide to do?
   A: Run away for safety
   B: Gather more support from neighbouring villages
   C: See the doctor
   D: Fight until he is killed, even if he is out-numbered

6. What does the doctor say that someone with a 'diseased' mind like Lady Macbeth must do?
   A: Have a good night's sleep
   B: Minister to (i.e. treat) herself
   C: Take some medicine
   D: Throw her tablets to the dogs

7. What does Macbeth tell the doctor to do?
   A: Prescribe a medicine to get rid of the English soldiers
   B: Find him more thanes to support him
   C: Stay and fight with him
   D: Go with him to Birnham Forest

8. Which words best describe Macbeth's attitude in this scene?
   A: Afraid and worried, yet hopeful
   B: Helpful, concerned and generous
   C: Gloomy, yet aggressive, and determined
   D: Confused, pathetic and weak