

Language

Introduction: Let's put that into practice! Take a look, for example, at the following passage taken from *Macbeth* (Act 2, scene 1). KING DUNCAN knows nothing about the MACBETHS' potential plans to murder him. BANQUO comes on stage and meets FLEANCE, his son.

BANQUO How goes the night, boy?

FLEANCE The moon is down; I have not heard the clock.

BANQUO And she goes down at twelve.

FLEANCE I take 't, 'tis later, sir.

BANQUO Hold, take my sword. — There's husbandry in heaven;
Their candles are all out. — Take thee that too.

A heavy summons lies like lead upon me,
And yet I would not sleep; merciful powers,
Restrain in me the cursèd thoughts that nature
Gives way to in repose.

Give me my sword. —
Who's there?

MACBETH A friend.

BANQUO What, sir, not yet at rest? The King's abed.
He hath been in unusual pleasure,
And sent forth great largess to your offices.
This diamond he greets your wife withal,
By the name of most kind hostess, and shut up
In measureless content.

Tasks:

1. **Read** the passage and use the **vocabulary help** on the next page to **understand** what the people are saying. Use additional sources (dictionary, ask somebody) for any other words or phrases you don't know.
2. Now **highlight** all the words and phrases that tell us **where** we are or **what time** it is.
3. Use another colour to **highlight** all the words and phrases that tell us that a certain **action** (movements, entering the stage, exiting the stage) is carried out while the lines are being said.
4. Use a third colour to **highlight** words and phrases that mention the **props** needed in this scene.

Vocabulary help

and she goes down at twelve – *'she' here means the moon*

husbandry – the careful use of money, etc., and, here, candles (*Sparsamkeit*)

their candles are all out – *'candles' here means stars, i.e. few stars are shining*

a heavy summons – a great tiredness

lead [led] (*noun*) – a heavy, grey metal (*Blei*)

I would not sleep – I cannot sleep

merciful powers...in repose – I call upon you, forgiving higher powers, to keep away from me the bad, dark thoughts that nature has been sending to me lately while I was resting

at rest – in bed

abed – in bed

pleasure – *here*: a good mood

great largess – a generous gift

your offices – your household

greets – *here*: gives, sends

withal – as well, too

by the name of most kind hostess – *Duncan called Lady Macbeth a most kind hostess (=somebody who receives guest), i.e. he paid her a compliment*

shut up – went to bed

measureless – great

content (*noun*) – happiness

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