LADY MACDUFF

Key features · development · paired evidence



THE BIG IDEA

Lady Macduff gives political violence a domestic setting. Her criticism reveals the cost of resistance for people left vulnerable.

FOLLOW THE CHARACTER

1 Questions departure › **2** Protects her son › **3** Faces danger at home › **4** Exposes tyranny's human cost

PROTECTION AND ABANDONMENT

"He loves us not"

Lady Macduff, 4.2

PAIRED WITH

"the poor wren"

Lady Macduff, 4.2

METHOD → MEANING

Her accusation measures duty through care for a family. The small protective bird makes Macduff's departure look troubling from inside the home, even though the audience knows his political purpose.

INNOCENCE OFFERS NO SECURITY

"I have done no harm"

Lady Macduff, 4.2

PAIRED WITH

"All my pretty ones?"

Macduff, 4.3

METHOD → MEANING

Her plain assertion cannot protect her in a violent state. Macduff's later question carries the offstage family loss into the resistance plot; the shift of speaker extends the consequences beyond the scene.

PUSH THE ARGUMENT

She does not know everything the audience knows about Macduff's mission. Treat her judgement as a meaningful perspective, rather than the play's only verdict on him.

COVER THE SHEET. CAN YOU EXPLAIN…?

Why place a conversation between mother and child before an attack?

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