**Review of Act One**

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| **Trust** | **Darkness** | **Loyalty** |
| **Deceit** | **Power** | **Light** |
| **Doubt** | **Conflict** | **Ambition** |
| **Witches** | **Praise** | **Soliloquy** |

1. Pick a word and create a list of associations
2. Retrieve a selection of quotations
3. Choose one and write about why it’s significant

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**Trust**

* To trust someone is to believe in their honesty and reliability
* Ducan is too trusting
* He is betrayed by the former Thane of Cawdor
* This establishes betrayal as an important in the play
* Macbeth’s new title foreshadows his later betrayal of Duncan
* Lady Macbeth advises Macbeth to ‘look like the innocent flower’
* Macbeth reflects that ‘false face must hide what the false heart doth know’

‘*There’s no art to find the mind’s construction in the face*’ – A1S4

The former Thane of Cawdor is a rebel who betrayed Duncan by assisting the King of Norway. Defeated by Macbeth and Banquo, he is later sentenced to death. Duncan reflects in A1S4 that there’s no reliable method or ‘art’ of discovering what someone truly thinks from their appearance. It appears that Duncan has learned to be less **trusting**, but this isn’t the case. He wrongly **trusts** Macbeth and has no idea about his murderous intentions. Indeed, at the end of the scene, Macbeth says that he will keep his ‘black and deep desires’ hidden from Duncan whilst he plots the murder.

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**Deceit**

* To deceive someone is to trick or mislead them
* The chant ‘Fair is foul, and foul is fair’ suggests that appearances are deceptive
* Duncan is deceived when he trusts the Thane of Cawdor
* Macbeth’s hospitality is designed to deceive Duncan
* Macbeth hopes to keep his ‘black and deep desires’ hidden from Duncan
* Deceit in the play is connected to darkness, the night and evil spirits
* Light is connected to the truth and morality

‘*Look like the innocent flower, but be the serpent under’t*’ – A1S5

Lady Macbeth’s advice to Macbeth shows how important **deceit** is to their plan. On the surface, Macbeth must appear loyal and kind to Duncan to hide his murderous intentions. Shakespeare links **deceit** with evil through the image of the serpent – a biblical allusion to Satan in the Garden of Eden. The contrast between the flower and the serpent reflects how dangerous it is to trust appearances. This moment establishes Lady Macbeth as the driving force behind the deceit that, ultimately, fuels Macbeth’s rise to power.

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**Conflict**

* Conflict is vividly presented in the Captain’s account of the battle against the rebels
* Macbeth is praised for his violence – ‘unseam’d him from the nave to the chaps’
* Conflict in the play is also psychological
* Macbeth’s internal conflict is vividly shown in his soliloquies
* He has serious doubts about murdering Duncan
* Lady Macbeth and Macbeth argue about his courage
* Macbeth is ultimately driven by his excessive ambition

‘*I have no spur to prick the sides of my intent, but only vaulting ambition*’ – A1S7

Macbeth’s soliloquy reveals his inner **conflict**: he can find no moral justification for murdering Duncan. Indeed, he reflects that he has a duty to protect Duncan in his capacity as both a subject and his host; he also concedes that Duncan is a good king. The metaphor of the ‘spur’ suggests that his sole motivation is ambition, which he recognises is dangerous and excessive. Shakespeare presents **conflict** in this moment of the play as deeply internal, as Macbeth wrestles with his conscience. This inner turmoil foreshadows his eventual downfall.