**Night and Darkness**

* Macbeth pleads for darkness – ‘**Stars, hide your fires**’ (Iiv)
* Duncan arrives at Inverness at night – ‘**The king comes here tonight**’ (Iv)
* Lady Macbeth evokes the darkness – ‘**Come, thick night**’ (Iv)
* Macbeth attempts to gain Banquo’s support at night – ‘**The moon is down**’ (IIi)
* Duncan is murdered at night – ‘**Nature seems dead**’ (IIi)
* The night of Duncan’s murder is unnaturally stormy – ‘**The night has been unruly**’ (IIiii)
* Darkness falls after Duncan is murdered – ‘**dark strangles the travelling lamp**’ (IIiv)
* Banquo is murdered as night is falling – ‘**A light, a light**’ (IIIiii)
* Witches are associated with night – ‘**midnight hags**’ (IVi)

**Gloomy Daylight**

* The battlefield is stormy – ‘**thunder and lightning**’ (Ii)
* The witches meet on a blasted heath – ‘**fog and filthy air**’ (Ii)
* Macbeth and Banquo remark on the bad weather – ‘**So foul and fair a day**’ (Iiii)
* Banquo thinks about the fading of the light – ‘**a borrower of the night**’ (IIIi)

**Light**

* Lady Macbeth keep a light beside her – ‘**She has light by her continually**’ (Vi)

|  |
| --- |
| **Notes**   * Darkness is associated with evil deeds and deceit * By contrast, light is linked with justice and truth * Darkness is replaced by light at the end of the play (the scenes in England take place in daylight) |

**Blood**

* Macbeth’s sword is stained with blood – ‘**smok’d with bloody execution**’ (Iii)
* Macbeth and Banquo are covered in blood – ‘**bathe in reeking wounds**’ (Iii)
* The Sergeant is badly injured – ‘**gashes cry for help**’ (Iii)
* The Second Witch has been slaughtering pigs – ‘**Killing swine**’ (Iiii)
* Macbeth’s dagger drips with blood – ‘**gouts of blood**’ (Iii)
* Macbeth believes he will never be able to clean Duncan’s blood from his hands – ‘**Neptune’s ocean**’ (IIii)
* Macbeth becomes increasingly murderous – ‘**blood will have blood**’ (IIIiv)
* The Second Apparition advises Macbeth to continue fighting – ‘**bloody, bold, and resolute**’ (Iiv)
* Malcolm says that Scotland bleeds – ‘**her wounds**’ (IViii)
* Macduff bemoans the state of Scotland – ‘**Bleed, bleed, poor country**’ (IViii)
* Lady Macbeth sees blood on her hands – ‘**damned spot**’ (Vi)
* Lady Macbeth recalls the blood from Duncan’s murder – ‘**so much blood in him**’ (Vi)
* Macbeth’s severed head is presented to Malcolm – ‘**Th’usurper’s cursed head**’ (Vix)

|  |
| --- |
| **Notes**   * Blood is a brutal reminder of death * Blood is associated with guilt |

**Sleep**

* The First Witch curses the captain of the Tiger – ‘**Sleep shall neither night nor day**’ (Iiii)
* Macbeth fears that he will never sleep again – ‘**Macbeth does murder sleep**’ (Iii)
* Lennox has a disturbed sleep on the night of Duncan’s murder – ‘**strange screams of death**’ (IIiii)
* Lady Macbeth sleepwalks – ‘**Look how she rubs her hands**’ (Vi)

|  |
| --- |
| **Notes**   * Disturbed sleep is form of retribution * Disturbed sleep is linked with evil deeds and feelings of guilt |

**Children**

* Lady Macbeth invokes evil spirits – ‘**Take my milk for gall**’ (Iv)
* Lady Macbeth worries that Macbeth is not ruthless enough – ‘**too full o’th’milk of human kindness**’ (Iv)
* Macbeth likens the emotion of pity to a vulnerable baby – ‘**Pity, like a naked newborn babe**’ (Ivii)
* Lady Macbeth encourages Macbeth to murder Duncan – ‘**pluck’d my nipple from his boneless gums**’ (Ivii)
* Lady Macbeth sleepwalks – ‘**Look how she rubs her hands**’ (Vi)
* The Second Apparition is a bloody child – ‘**a bloody child**’ (IVi)
* Macbeth murders Macduff’s children – ‘**all my pretty chickens**’ (IViii)

|  |
| --- |
| **Notes**   * Children symbolise pity and vulnerability * Children are connected to maternal instincts * Milk symbolises tenderness, compassion and sympathy |