

L.O. To identify authorial techniques in a modern retelling of Macbeth, and describe their effect.

### Key:

## Short sentences

## Questions

## Ellipsis

## Breaking conventions


## The effect

Past midnight. The feast was ended and the feasters all in bed. The torches were out and the castle was dark and quiet. Yet there was an uneasiness in the air, and sleep was restless. Two men crossed a court that was open to the black sky. One was Banquo, the other was Fleance, his son. A light approached.

"Who's there?"

It was the master of the house with a servant carrying a torch. His face was a rapid mingling of firelight and shadows, now seeming to scowl, now to grin, now plunged into utter gloom.

"I dreamt last night of the three weird sisters," murmured Banquo to his friend. "To you they have showed some truth."

“I think not of them,” said Macbeth, and looked away. The friends parted. For a moment, Macbeth stared after Banquo and his son. Then he turned to his servant. “Go bid thy mistress,” he ordered, “when my drink is ready she strike upon the bell.”

The servant departed, and Macbeth waited, listening. Once again, horrible thoughts filled his head, and strange fancies . . .

"Is this a dagger which I see before me?" he breathed; for he did indeed

seem to see such a weapon, eerily in the air, and it was thick with blood. Then, faintly, he heard the sound of a bell. Although he expected it, had been waiting for it, he started violently when it came.

"Hear it not, Duncan," he whispered, "for it is a knell that summons thee to heaven or to hell." Then, drawing his own dagger, he crept from the court like a ghost.

There was silence. Nothing stirred, nothing breathed. Then Lady Macbeth appeared. Her face was white; her eyes blazed with inward fire. She waited. Suddenly an owl screamed, and the night sighed. She stared towards the chamber where the King slept.

"He is about it."

[illegible]