

## **Monday**

Re-read the example newspaper article below.

### **ROYAL DEATH**

**The tragic news of the untimely death of Queen Macbeth was announced today, leading to widespread mourning throughout Scotland.**

Queen Macbeth (the 38-year-old wife of King Macbeth) was found - by one of her loyal maids - at approximately 8am, yesterday morning, in her royal chamber in Inverness Castle (Scotland). The maid (who does not wish to be named) had been concerned that the queen had not emerged from her chamber by 7:30 am (as she usually did), and so had checked on her. Apparently, she was deathly pale and cold to the touch so the maid quickly summoned a doctor to the scene. However, Queen Macbeth had died some hours previously and, therefore, could not be saved.

According to a royal source, "The queen had been acting strangely for many days." It is said that she had been suffering from depression and had not been sleeping well. Allegedly, the night before her death, she had been found wandering around the castle in her nightgown, frantically rubbing her hands together. The cause of her death has not yet been officially confirmed. However, it is widely thought that the queen may well have taken her own life.

The whole country is now in a state of mourning. It is reported that her husband is in a state of shock, but that he will make a statement to his subjects in the coming days.

Her body is currently being kept in a room (which is constantly guarded) in the royal household. No date has yet been set for the royal funeral, but it is expected that it will take place by the end of the month.

- Why do people read newspaper articles?
- What 'big event' is our newspaper article about?
- What different paragraphs did the model newspaper article have?

Remember we are going to write a newspaper article about the death of King Duncan.

Now write your headline.

We are all going to write the same opening paragraph. Please copy it under your headline.

**The tragic news of the sudden death of King Duncan was announced today, leading to widespread mourning throughout Scotland.**

For the next paragraph we are going to start with the discovery of the death first as that's the main focus, and then track back to the events before it. Here's an example:

*The corpse of King Duncan was found, by Lord Banquo, earlier this morning in the royal chamber at Cawdor Castle (owned by Macbeth and his wife). According to Lord Banquo, he had been concerned that the King had not emerged from his chamber by 8:00am (as he usually did), and therefore he had checked on her.*

Now write the first part of your newspaper articles:

Main focus: brackets and speech. Use the model text, and the prompt below, to help you.

## **KING DUNCAN DEAD! MURDERED MONARCH! ROYAL MURDER MYSTERY**

It is thought that...

It has been reported that...

It is said that...

It is rumoured that...

brackets: Add useful extra information for the reader. This could be extra facts (age, where, times) or a little explanation or detail. Look at the model text for ideas too.

Remember to proofread your work.

### **Tuesday**

Complete your newspaper articles. Refer to the model text and prompt, from yesterday, to help you.

Proofread your work and edit.

## Wednesday

Read text 5.

Remember our overall aim with this project is knowing, and showing, that Shakespeare's work is relevant, enjoyable and accessible.

The way Macbeth treated Banquo is a very extreme example of the kind of betrayal and disloyalty that everyone experiences in life and indeed, we see this kind of behaviour in films and TV programmes nowadays as it makes good drama.

Our next task gives us the chance for the character of Banquo to 'speak' from beyond the grave, giving his 'story' about what happened to his dear friend, Macbeth – the change in him and the consequences it has had. As he is a ghost, we can grant him powers that humans wouldn't have and thus the knowledge of things Macbeth said and did which he would not have known about when he was alive.

*What key events might Banquo want to mention in this and why?*

Here are some ideas:

- the prophecies of the witches
- being made Thane of Cawdor – this was the catalyst for the actions that followed
- killing King Duncan and his two guards
- ascending to the throne, but still not satisfied
- murdering him (Banquo) and attempting to murder his son as well

What might Banquo have to say about these events (some details and his own opinion).

Read through the model text below:

My death – and yes, ghosts can indeed write – is all down to Macbeth. Not long ago at all, I truly considered him the most loyal - and greatest - of friends, but no more. Instead, I now know the dreadful truth: he is the most vile, immoral and ruthless of humans.

Everything changed one stormy night a few months' ago when he and I were returning victorious – and full of adrenalin - from battle. Unexpectedly, we chanced upon a trio of haggard witches who insisted on speaking with us. Before we even had chance to refuse, they began to tell us their intriguing predictions.

## **Thursday**

- What were the witches like? How did they move and speak? What was the moor, and the weather there, like?
- What predictions did the witches make? And how did Macbeth and Banquo react?
- Why was Macbeth made Thane of Cawdor? How did he, and his wife, react to this?

Write a from-beyond-the grave narrative by Banquo.

You need to write about when he met the witches with Macbeth, the predictions they made, Macbeth being made the Thane of Cawdor and how Lady Macbeth responded to all the news.

Now proofread your work.