**Introduction**

In the extract, Macbeth has just learned that Lady Macbeth has died, and he is facing the advance of a powerful English army led by Malcolm. As the insight into the tragic hero turned tyrant facing defeat, it is a defining moment for the audience in terms of finally appraising Macbeth’s character. This would be even more poignant to a Jacobean audience, who would be keen to see God’s choice of king take his rightful place at the Scottish throne.

**Conclusion**

Macbeth’s complex twists and turns in character make him fascinating to both Jacobean and modern audiences. His initial ambition, tempered with a conscience gives way to a complicated combination of both defeat and invincibility as he finally faces his nemesis, Macduff. His character remains one whom we have followed through a dramatic tragic arc into inevitable death by the close of the play.