**Appearance vs Reality**

**Useful phrases**

* **Act 1, Scene 1 establishes the theme of appearance and reality.**
* **Macbeth takes on the persona of two characters – one as the trusted loyal subject to the king and the other, a devious and treacherous man.**
* **It is difficult at times to establish between appearance and reality**
* **Banquo’s ghost**
* **The dagger**
* **Lady Macbeth unable to wash the spot of blood from her hand.**
* **The witches speak in ambiguous riddles.**
* **Macbeth, who relied on his own ability to deceive the king, ironically was deceived by the witches.**
* **Lady Macbeth in her delirious state re-enacts the murder of Duncan, showing how she eventually became unable to distinguish between appearance and reality.**
* **Equivocation is the use of ambiguous language to mislead or trick.**
* **The witches use equivocal language to mislead Macbeth.**
* **The witches’ prophecies appeal to Macbeth’s ambitious nature.**
* **The theme of appearance vs reality is explored through the many acts of deception in the play.**
* **Shakespeare uses the hallucinations to reveal how Macbeth’s hold on reality is slipping.**
* **For both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth the confusion between appearance and reality allows Shakespeare to reveal their deep-seated guilt.**