



## CHARACTER FRIEZE (LIVING SCULPTURES)

### Overview

#### Activity

Through this exercise, varied representations of a particular character and his/her language are explored. Each group of students will create physical manifestations or “sculptures” to represent some of the lines spoken by one particular character in sequence through the play.

Grade Level	Subject Area	Curriculum Expectations and Learning Outcome			Time Needed	Space	Materials
All	English, Language, Drama	Identify a range of vocal effects, including tone, pace, pitch, volume, and a variety of sound effects, and use them appropriately to communicate their meaning.	Develop and explain interpretations of increasingly complex or difficult texts using stated and implied ideas from the texts to support their interpretations.	Engage in drama explorations and role play, with a focus on exploring drama structures, key ideas, and pivotal moments of the play.	15-30 minutes	Open spaces for exploring the text	Lines from the play printed on individual slips of paper

## THE ACTIVITY

- Divide the class into groups of seven or eight. Each group will work on lines from one character.
- Hand to each group the sheet of paper with the lines from one character. Each member of the group will pick one of the lines that interests them – make sure they all pick different lines.
- Next, ask them (as individuals) to become a living “sculpture” – a motionless representation of their line.
- When the students have finished rehearsing their sculpture/pose/line, assemble them into an “audience”; then ask each group in turn to present their character. Have the members of the group line up in the order in which the lines are spoken in the play (which is the order in which they are written on the page). Each person in turn strikes their pose and says their line.
- You can repeat the whole exercise as many times as you like, giving different characters to each group.

## EXTENSIONS

- Have the group reassemble and rehearse a whole group sculpture – each individual statue must be connected to another in some way. Members of the group may pick new lines at this point if they wish (unless all the lines were used the first time); they can also choose to use just a word or part of the phrase on the page, and several students may choose to say the same line. When presenting, the group sculpture will form, with one group member at a time moving into the centre, saying their word or line and striking a pose – it no longer matters in which order the students speak. As a further extension, groups may wish to add movement to their piece.
- Choose one of the lines and write about what it means to you. What type of person might say that line? What situation might inspire them to say this? Does the character seem to change at all as s/he speaks? What might explain that?



## **Character Frieze Lines – Macbeth**

1. If chance will have me king, why chance may crown me...
2. I dare do all that may become a man.
3. I am afraid to think what I have done.
4. Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood  
Clean from my hand?
5. O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife!
6. Filthy hags,  
Why do you show me this?
7. I have almost forgot the taste of fears.
8. I'll fight till from my bones my flesh be hacked.
9. I bear a charmed life which must not yield  
To one of woman born.
10. Lay on, Macduff,  
And damned be him that first cried, 'Hold, enough!'



### **Character Frieze Lines – Lady Macbeth**

1. Hie thee hither, that I may pour my spirits in thine ear.
2. Fill me from the crown to the toe topfull  
Of direct cruelty.
3. But screw your courage to the sticking place,  
And we'll not fail!
4. Had he not resembled my father as he slept,  
I had done it.
5. Infirm of purpose! Give me the daggers!
6. My hands are of your colour, but I shame  
To wear a heart so white.
7. Naught's had, all's spent  
When our desire is got without content.
8. You lack the season of all natures, sleep.
9. Yet here's the smell of the blood still.
10. Hell is murky.



**Character Frieze Lines – Macduff**

1. O horror, horror, horror!
2. 'Tis not for you to hear what I can speak.
3. I am not treacherous.
4. I have lost my hopes.
5. My ever gentle cousin, welcome hither.
6. How does my wife? And all my children?
7. What, all my pretty chickens and their dam at one fell swoop?
8. O, I could play the woman with mine eyes.
9. Turn, hell hound, turn.
10. I have no words. My voice is in my sword.



### **Character Frieze Lines – Banquo**

1. What are these, so withered and so wild in their attire?
2. Speak then to me, who neither beg nor fear  
Your favours nor your hate.
3. What, can the devil speak true?
4. Oftentimes, to win us to their harm,  
The instruments of darkness tell us truths.
5. A heavy summons lies like lead upon me.
6. Say it is not so!
7. Fears and scruples shake us.
8. In the great hand of God I stand.
9. Thou hast it now all, and I fear  
Thou played'st most foully for't
10. O treachery! Fly, good Fleance, fly, fly, fly!



### **Character Frieze Lines – Witch**

1. Fair is foul and foul is fair.
2. All hail Macbeth, that shalt be king hereafter.
3. Peace! The charm's wound up.
4. He shall spurn fate, scorn death, and bear  
His hopes 'bove wisdom, grace and fear.
5. You all know security  
Is mortal's chiefest enemy.
6. Round about the cauldron go  
In the poisoned entrails throw.
7. Double, double, toil and trouble  
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.
8. Cool it with a baboon's blood  
Then the charm is firm and good.
9. By the pricking of my thumbs  
Something wicked this way comes.
10. Seek to know no more.



**Character Frieze Lines – Duncan**

1. What bloody man is that?
2. O valiant cousin! Worthy gentleman!
3. There's no art  
To find the mind's construction in the face.
4. He was a gentleman on whom I built  
An absolute trust.
5. More is thy due than more than all can pay.
6. Let me enfold thee and hold thee to my heart.
7. Signs of nobleness, like stars, shall shine  
On all deservers.
8. Fair and noble hostess, we are your guests tonight.
9. We love him highly and shall continue our graces towards  
him.
10. In his commendations I am fed;  
It is a banquet to me.



## **Character Frieze Lines – Malcolm**

1. Let's not consort with them.
2. To show an unfelt sorrow is an office  
Which the false man does easy.
3. This murderous shaft that's shot  
Hath not yet lighted.
4. This tyrant, whose sole name blisters our tongues,  
Was once thought honest.
5. I think our country sinks beneath the yoke;  
It weeps, it bleeds.
6. I am as I have spoken.
7. I delight no less in truth than life.
8. What I am truly  
Is thine, and my poor country's to command.
9. Blunt not the heart, enrage it.
10. Macbeth is ripe for shaking.



## **Character Frieze Lines - Lennox**

1. What a haste looks through his eyes!
2. Goes the King hence today?
3. The night has been unruly.
4. Good night and better health attend his majesty.
5. The gracious Duncan was pitied of Macbeth; marry he was dead.
6. Advise him to caution t'hold what distance his wisdom can provide.
7. Some holy angel fly to the court of England.
8. Macduff is fled to England.
9. To dew the sovereign flower and drown the weeds.
10.     Make we our march towards Birnam.