**Shakespeare’s Language**

Iambic pentameter is the rhythm of what the characters are saying. It is in 5 heart beats, so it takes on its own momentum, with one soft beat repeated five times. Iambic pentameter is used almost all the time in Macbeth.

Prose is a conversational way of speaking which doesn’t have a set rhythm or structure, verse always has a set rhythm and structure. Most of Macbeth is written in verse, its interesting to watch out for where it isn’t used.

Rhyming couplets are two lines written in iambic pentameter that end in the same sound, or a rhyme. They are often used to sum up the end of a character’s speech. A lot of characters use rhyming couplets to finish thoughts and speeches in this play. Macbeth uses them at the end of his soliloquies.

Antithesis happens when two opposites are out together. For Example, hot and cold or light and dark. In act 1 scene 1 the witches lines include ‘when the battle’s lost and won’

Trochaic tetrameter is a different rhythm, which includes eight syllables in each line rather than ten that are used in iambic pentameter. The witch’s lines are much shorter than the other characters’ verse line.

Shared lines are when two or more characters share a line of iambic verse between them. You will usually see this laid out on the page and it can often show a connection between characters. Shared lines tell us a lot about the relationship between the characters lady Macbeth and Macbeth use several shared lines when Macbeth returns from murdering Duncan.