**OPTIC Strategy[[1]](#footnote-1)**

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| **O** | **O** is for **Overview**. Conduct a brief overview of the main subject of the visual. |
| A man holding daggers walks through a doorway. A woman ushers him into the room and stands with a finger to her lips suggesting he should be quiet. |
| **P** | **P** is for **Parts.** Scrutinize the parts of the visual. Note any elements or details that seem important. |
| There is a doorway, a heavy curtain, a ghost-like man and woman. There is an absence of color, except for the principal figures: Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. The darkness contrasted with the ghostlike darkness suggests death and macabre tone. |
| **T** | **T** is for **Title.** Read the title or caption of the visual (if present) for added information. |
| The title suggests that Lady Macbeth has the bloody daggers. |
| **I** | **I** is for **Interrelationships.** Use the words in the title or caption and the individual parts of the visual to determine connections and relationships within the graphic. |
| Macbeth enters through a doorway. He holds daggers and appears shrunken and nude or skeletal. Lady Macbeth greets him and suggests that he remain quiet. She is also ghostly in appearance. The black background serves as the cloak of night, and Lady Macbeth and Macbeth appear ghostly against the background. Lady Macbeth has a larger presence in the painting suggesting her dominance and her role as a driving force in the murder. |
| **C** | **C** is for **Conclusion.** Draw a conclusion about the meaning of the visual as a whole. Summarize the message in one or two sentences. |
| Macbeth has committed a deed that he cannot undo and appears to be terrified. Lady Macbeth urges him across the threshold into the darkness of their new lives. |

1. Adapted from Pauk, W. (2000). *How to study in college* (7th ed.). Houghton Mifflin Company: Boston [↑](#footnote-ref-1)