Act II, i, 1

“How goes the night, boy?”

Banquo and Fleance are travelling at night and at this time we get the impression Banquo doesn’t wholly trust Macbeth. He tells Fleance that he’s been sleeping poorly and then turns around tells Macbeth the opposite. The night makes him nervous, Duncan is about to be killed, and the night reflects the actions that follow.

Act II, III, 61

“The night has been unruly. Where we lay, Our chimneys were blown down and, as they say, Lamenting heard I’ th’ air, strange screams of death.”

Lennox is talking to Macbeth about his night right after coming into Macbeth’s castle after the murder of Duncan. He tells Macbeth that he didn’t have a good night and throughout it he heard the “strange screams of death”. This is right after the murder of Duncan, so it’s enforcing the image of the evil that emerges in the night and in the darkness.

Act II, III, 167-169

“This murderous shaft that’s shot/ Hath not yet lighted, and our safest way/ Is to avoid the aim.”

Malcom is talking to his brother, Donalbain, after the death of their father, Duncan. He and Donalbain are thinking they’re the next targets for assassination, so they flee Scotland. While discussing this, Malcom talks about finding the light that’s not been shot by darkness. They literally refer to the evil going down in Scotland as the darkness and the area that they’re fleeing to as the light. They’re trying to avoid the aim of the dark, or in this case, the murderous intent of whoever is trying to usurp the Scottish throne.

Act II, IV, 6-24

“By th’ clock ‘tis day, And yet dark night strangles the travelling lamp. Is ‘t night’s predominance or the day’s shame That darkness does the face of earth entomb When living light should kiss it.”

In the beginning of this scene, Ross is talking to an old man about all the weird things that have been going on recently. He begins all this by talking about the weird weather recently. Although this scene takes place in the day, it’s dark outside. Again, this reflects on the nature of the evens we’ve just witnessed. As the plot unravels, its seemingly as though the darkness is strangling the light over Scotland. The world is getting consumed in this darkness, or evil in a more literal sense.

Act V, I, 1

In the beginning of Act V, we see a doctor discussing Lady Macbeth’s sleepwalking. Lady Macbeth is reliving the murder of Duncan while she sleeps, at the darkest time of the day. She mimics constantly washing her hands, trying to ‘get the blood off of them’. As the nights go on, she seems to be slowly loosing her sanity.

Act V, I, 26

This is the first reference to blindness I was able to find. While Lady Macbeth is sleepwalking, she keeps her eyes open. Even though her eyes are open however, she can’t see. She’s lost herself in her own mind, spiraling farther and farther into the darkness she’s cast over herself. She’s loosing herself and to show this, her sight as well.