Text and Subtext

Macbeth and Young Siward are each played by two actors. Actor 1 speaks the lines as written. Actor 2 then gives the subtext to the line. What is being meant by the line? What is going on in the character's head as they speak?

ACT V SCENE VII

[*Alarums. Enter* MACBETH]

MACBETH They have tied me to a stake; I cannot fly,
But, bear-like, I must fight the course. What's he
That was not born of woman? Such a one
Am I to fear, or none.

[*Enter* YOUNG SIWARD]

YOUNG SIWARD What is thy name?

MACBETH Thou'lt be afraid to hear it.

YOUNG SIWARD No; though thou call'st thyself a hotter name
Than any is in hell.

MACBETH My name's Macbeth.

YOUNG SIWARD The devil himself could not pronounce a title
More hateful to mine ear.

MACBETH No, nor more fearful.

YOUNG SIWARD Thou liest, abhorred tyrant; with my sword 10
I'll prove the lie thou speak'st.