

Measure for Measure: (a) Characters

- ❖ **Lesson focus:** To begin to examine and understand the characters.
- ❖ **Opening exercise:** Give out the *Measure for Measure: (a)i* Personalities sheet.
 - Students individually allocate two letters indicating personality traits to each character. Allow 5-10 minutes for this.
 - Discuss as a class, noting agreements and any significant disagreements.
- ❖ **Textual examination:** Allocate the main characters around the class, perhaps working in pairs. The number of characters you use depends upon the size of the class.
- ❖ **Recreative task:** Write a short dialogue between any two characters who are discussing events at the end of the play.
 - Think of some imaginative pairs, as well as the more obvious combinations.
- ❖ **Critical task:** Choose one of the main characters.
 - How far is the character psychologically convincing, and how far an allegorical figure?
- ❖ **Extension task:** Compare the Duke with 'controlling' figures in other Shakespeare plays that you know (e.g. Prospero, Leontes, Theseus, Henry V, Richard III, King Lear...)

For each character, students research the following, presenting their findings in note/diagrammatic form on one side of A4. These can then be photocopied and distributed to the whole group.

- What are our first impressions of the character?
- What are our final impressions of the character? (What changes?)
- What themes or images are specifically connected to the character?
- Quote three or four key lines spoken by, or about, the character.