

The Winter's Tale: (b) Comparing two speeches

☞ refers to links on www.crossref-it.info

- ❖ **Lesson focus:** To explore two characters through close examination of specific speeches:
 - **I.ii.107 – 176**
 - **III.ii.1 - 20**
- ❖ **Opening exercise:** Divide the group into two halves:
 - Half the group to read I.ii.107 ('Too hot, too hot!') to 176 ('- shall's attend you there?') (See ☞ [synopses > Act I scene ii](#))
 - The other half reads III.ii.1 to 20 ('... to fly away by night.'). (See ☞ [synopses > Act II scene ii](#))
 - Each group must present to the other a freeze frame of the characters' positions at the end of these sections
 - Each character should 'step out' of the freeze in turn, to briefly explain his/her situation and feelings at this point.
- ❖ **Discussion ideas:** The same halves go on to discuss amongst themselves the speeches that follow their extracts:
 - Leontes II.177-205 in I,ii
 - Hermione II.21-53 in III,ii. (See ☞ [characterisation > Leontes and Hermione](#))
 - Following discussion, they report back their thoughts to the whole group
 - If abilities allow, performances of the speeches would be useful
 - If film or audio versions are available, these could be played and the interpretations discussed. (See ☞ [Shakespeare's language > Blank verse, prose and rhyme](#))
- (See ☞ [Shakespeare's language > Variations from the norm](#))
- ❖ **Textual examination:** Find examples in the scene of the following:
 - Lines longer than 10 syllables
 - Lines shorter than 10 syllables
 - Enjambment
 - Alliteration
 - Repetition
 - Imagery
 - Specific use of punctuation.
 - What do you notice about the style of speech associated here with
 - Leontes?
 - Hermione?
 - Explain the dramatic effect of each of these examples. (See ☞ [Shakespeare's language > Variations from the norm](#))
- ❖ **Recreative task:** Produce either:
 - A film montage
 - A collage of picturesto represent the speeches of either
 - Leontes
 - Hermione.
- ❖ **Critical task:** Compare and contrast the two speeches:
 - What do we learn about the two characters from these speeches?
 - Refer to **Worksheet (b)i** which gives ideas but is probably not exhaustive. (See ☞ [The structure of *The Winter's Tale* > Juxtaposition](#))
- ❖ **Extension task:** Compare Leontes' speeches early in the play with those in the final scenes. (See ☞ [Characterisation > Leontes; Leontes' changed language](#))