

❖ **Act III, Scene i:**

- How frequently have the gods (or goddesses, or heaven) been mentioned so far in the play?
 - Keep a log of references (looking back over the two previous Acts and continuing until the end of the play, including synonymous ideas – e.g. 'powers divine' in Act III, scene ii)
- What is the possible effect of all the references to divine powers on the audience?
 - How might they affect the audience's potential view of the universe within which the world of the play operates?

❖ **Act III, Scene ii:**

- Read out loud the speeches of Hermione in this scene
 - As you do so, assess how Shakespeare creates the sense of unassailable dignity with which he endues the queen.
- Read out loud the speech of Paulina beginning, 'What studied torments, tyrant'

- What methods does Shakespeare use to create a sense of her outrage and anger?
- The words of the Oracle of Apollo do not at first change Leontes' mind
 - What does?
 - Why?

❖ **Act III, Scene iii:**

- Re-read Antigonus' account of his vision of Hermione
 - Consider the impression this vision and Hermione's words may have
 - On an audience seeing the play for the first time, who at this point think she is dead
 - For an audience who knows the play, and are aware that this is a vision of the living Hermione.
- The mood changes, and humour is introduced, with the arrival of the shepherds
 - Examine their speeches to see how Shakespeare makes them comical even when they are discussing the deaths of Antigonus and his party.