

# Investigate!

## *The Winter's Tale: Act V*

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#### ❖ **Act V, Scene i:**

- 'Welcome hither, / As is the spring to th' earth.'
- In what ways do Florizel and Perdita bring new life and renewal to the court of Sicilia?

#### ❖ **Act V, Scene ii:**

- The discovery of Perdita's identity is one of the key moments of the play. However, Shakespeare cannot show it without detracting from an even more significant moment – the revelation that Hermione is still alive, which neither the characters in the play (apart from Paulina) nor the audience know about.
- Make notes of the ways in which Shakespeare sets about creating a sense of amazement and wonder, without actually showing the revelation of Perdita's identity on stage.

#### ❖ **Act V, Scene iii:**

- Consider the 'resurrection' of Hermione:
  - Why, in your opinion, does Shakespeare decide to have Hermione hidden away for sixteen years?
  - How effective is her re-appearance at the end of the play?
  - Why might Shakespeare decide not to give Hermione any words to speak to Leontes?
- The restoration of an heir to Leontes, as promised by the Oracle, is effected without the re-appearance of Hermione so:
  - Why might Shakespeare decide to include Act V, scene iii?
  - What would the play gain or lose without this scene?
- The first half of the play is like a tragedy, and the second half like a comedy
  - In your opinion, which aspect dominates – what is the mood of the play overall?