
 refers to links on [www.crossref-it.info](http://www.crossref-it.info)

❖ **Act IV, Scene i:**

- Read through the song at the start of this scene
  - How do the words reflect Mariana's situation? (To be 'forsworn' means 'to have broken a promise'.)

- Note your views now, and compare them with
  - your earlier opinions
  - your views of the Duke by the end of the play.

❖ **Act IV, Scene ii:**

- Go through the scene noting when speech changes from prose to blank verse, and verse
  - What might be the effect on an audience of hearing these different patterns of language? (For details about these forms, see  Shakespeare's language.)
- Hiding behind his disguise as a friar, the Duke has been attempting to control events. However, in this scene, his plan to reprieve Claudio has been thwarted by Angelo's treachery
  - What is your opinion of the Duke at this point?
    - Is he a good man attempting to see right prevail?
    - Or an interfering and deceitful manipulator?

❖ **Act IV, Scene iii:**

- Barnardine seems at first to be introduced as someone whose head can provide a substitute for Claudio's, but in the end this is not the case
- What might be Shakespeare's reason for introducing Barnardine?
  - Which issues and themes does this character allow Shakespeare to present to the audience?

❖ **Act IV, Scene iv:**

- Read through Angelo's soliloquy
  - Paraphrase his ideas, making a numbered list showing the stages of his thought-processes here.