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)

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 pictures to 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)