

The Bard Blitz: Student Worksheet

Stage 1. Concrete Experience.

Aim: Personal and collective *experience* of extract.

Activity: Read this extract aloud and get to know it in detail. Discuss its language, imagery, sounds and meaning. What is it saying? How would it be spoken by the actor? What do you like or dislike about it? What words or phrases are hard to understand?

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Stage 2. Reflective observation.

Aim: Personal *comprehension* of the extract via translation.

Activity: Working in pairs, write out a translation of the extract in your own words to demonstrate that you know what it is saying. Be as accurate as you can so that your words capture the exact meaning of Shakespeare's words. You might want to do it line by line. Afterwards your group will discuss and evaluate some of the translations.

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Stage 3. Abstract conceptualisation.

Aim: Development of *abstract concepts and theories* from the extract.

Activity: Via brainstorming with your group, write a list of all the concepts and ideas that you think the extract contains or suggests: these might relate to character, language, staging or context. Make the list as big as you can and include ideas about what the whole play is about if these ideas also appear in the extract. This list is your personal collection of concepts that you will draw on to compose your own approach to the play in Stage 4.

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Stage 4. Active experimentation.

Aim: Concrete experimentation and actualisation of knowledge via thesis building.

Activity: Select a group of related ideas that interest you from your list in Stage 3: this will form the basis of your argument that explores a particular topic or makes a particular case about the meaning of the play. Make a note of textual evidence from the extract and elsewhere in the play that supports your argument or the topic you are exploring. Compose a paragraph that outlines your approach to the play or your exploration of a topic. In your paragraph make sure you prove your claims by referring to evidence from the play. You could begin your paragraph with 'This text is about....' or 'Such and such a concept [insert your main concept] is important in this text because....'