

Learning Objective: Understand Shakespeare's use of the Friar in the set scenes.

Starter

- Ask students what they think the role of a Friar might be: they might need prompting and very simple answers are acceptable such as to marry people, baptise them etc.
- In pairs, and using **Worksheet 1**, students rank the words to show what they think the role of one is.
- Take feedback and question students' choices. See if students have chosen a similar order for the words or if there is no consensus.

Introduction

- Read Act 4, Scene 1, lines 196-250.
- Can students find evidence for the top three words that they chose from **Worksheet 1** in the Friar's speech?
- Do students still think the words they chose are the most appropriate for this Friar?
- Give students a few moments to think of three words that they think best suit the Friar now and, for those who finish first, some evidence to prove their points.
- Take feedback and discuss the ways in which the Friar is different to what students would expect.

Development

- Using Worksheet 2 students summarise the Friar's plan.
- Look at the way the Friar explains his idea: he is a very persuasive speaker, using many well-known speech-making techniques. Using Worksheet 3 students identify the rhetorical devices the Friar uses in order to encourage Leonato, and the others, to agree to the plan.
- Now look at the Friar's speech in the second set scene: although he has a central role as he is conducting the marriage ceremony, he only says a few words. In pairs students should discuss why they think Shakespeare gave the Friar such a central role in the 'death of Hero' trick. What difference would it have made if one of the other characters, such as Benedick, Beatrice, Leonato or Hero herself had suggested the idea of Hero's death?

Plenary

- Students feedback their ideas for the Friar's key role in Act 4, Scene 1.
- If time, students should make a comment about the Friar's role on a postcard, or similar sized piece of paper, and then, using a connective, make a linking point about his small role in the final scene.
- If possible, stick all the postcards on a display board as an example of how to draw comparisons and contrasts between the two set scenes.

Worksheet 1: The Friar's job description

Look at the words below and decide which you think most applies to a Friar and which you think least applies. You might want to diamond rank the words so that you can have some as equally, and least, important as each other.

Just
Honest
Religious
Devout
Truthful
Diplomatic
Sensitive
Kind-hearted

Worksheet 2: He's such a good speaker ...

Look at the Friar's speech below on the left-hand side of the page.

Summarise what the Friar says using the boxes on the right-hand side.

<p>Pause awhile, And let my counsel sway you in this case. Your daughter here the princes left for dead: Let her awhile be secretly kept in, And publish it that she is dead indeed; Maintain a mourning ostentation And on your family's old monument Hang mournful epitaphs and do all rites That appertain unto a burial.</p>	<p>What does he suggest Leonato should do?</p>
<p>...</p>	
<p>Marry, this well carried shall on her behalf Change slander to remorse; that is some good: But not for that dream I on this strange course, But on this travail look for greater birth. She dying, as it must so be maintain'd, Upon the instant that she was accused, Shall be lamented, pitied and excused Of every hearer: for it so falls out That what we have we prize not to the worth Whiles we enjoy it, but being lack'd and lost, Why, then we rack the value, then we find The virtue that possession would not show us Whiles it was ours. So will it fare with Claudio: When he shall hear she died upon his words, The idea of her life shall sweetly creep Into his study of imagination, And every lovely organ of her life Shall come apparell'd in more precious habit, More moving-delicate and full of life, Into the eye and prospect of his soul, Than when she lived indeed; then shall he mourn, If ever love had interest in his liver, And wish he had not so accused her, No, though he thought his accusation true.</p>	<p>What does he say happens when people discover they can not have something that they once did not care about as much as they should have done?</p>
<p>...</p>	<p>How does he think Claudio will be affected by the news?</p>
<p>Let this be so, and doubt not but success Will fashion the event in better shape Than I can lay it down in likelihood. But if all aim but this be levell'd false, The supposition of the lady's death Will quench the wonder of her infamy: And if it sort not well, you may conceal her, As best befits her wounded reputation, In some reclusive and religious life, Out of all eyes, tongues, minds and injuries.</p>	<p>What is the Friar's suggestion if the plan does not work?</p>

Worksheet 3: The Friar's Persuasive Powers

Use the legend below to create a key of rhetorical devices that the Friar uses when outlining his plan to Leonato and the other characters. You will need to colour in each square in a different colour or use a different pattern for each one. Then go through the speech and identify, by the correct colour or pattern, where the Friar uses the device.

Legend:

- Lists of three.....
- Emotive language.....
- Alliteration
- Contrasting pairs
- Parallel pairs
- Metaphor.....
- Repetition.....

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