

Act 1 Scene 2

From the moment Richard appears in Act 1, scene 2, him and Anne trade insults and compliments.

1. See how many you can find and put them in a table like the one below; the first few have been done for you:

| Anne's insults to Richard | Richard's compliments to Anne |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| fiend | sweet saint |
| devil | lady |

2. Once you have made the list, count up who says the most insults or compliments. What do you think this tells an audience about the two characters?
3. Which of Anne's insults do you think is the most effective and why?
4. How would you tell an actor to say this insult?
5. Which of Richard's compliments do you think is the most effective and why?
6. How would you tell an actor to say this compliment?
7. Some of the compliments and insults are said in response to another. Can you match any of them up? For example, Anne's, 'dreadful minister of hell' is answered with Richard's, 'sweet saint'.
8. Can you see any sort of pattern to the way the compliments/insults are answered?

Extension Activity:

Use the box below to plan your ideas for the following question:

Imagine you are the director of a production of King Richard III. How would you direct the actors playing Richard and Anne in this scene?