

Act 1 Scene 2

From the moment Richard appears in Act 1, scene 2, him and Anne trade insults and compliments. The following are all the words they call each other:

Anne's insults to Richard	Richard's compliments to Anne
fiend	sweet saint
devil	lady
dreadful minister of hell	divine perfection of a woman
foul devil	gentle Lady Anne
lump of foul deformity	fair creature
villain	sweet lady
beast	lady
diffus'd infection of a man	
devilish slave	
hedgehog	
homicide	
fouler toad	
dissembler	

1. Who says the most insults or compliments? What do you think this tells an audience about the two characters? Think about how many compliments Richard actually uses to win Anne around to the idea that he loves her.
2. Which of Anne's insults do you think is the most effective and why?
3. How would you tell an actor to say this insult?
4. Which of Richard's compliments do you think is the most effective and why?
5. How would you tell an actor to say this compliment?
6. 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'.