

Questions

Below are all the questions Elizabeth asks Richard when they are alone in Act 4 Scene 4.

1. Try saying each question in a different way, for example: angrily; menacingly; contemptuously; conspiratorially; laughingly; resignedly. Think about whether the questions seem more effective if they are shouted, spoken at usual volume or whispered.
2. Without looking back at the text, decide what you think Richard's response (answer) is to each question (you can paraphrase rather than trying to remember the exact Shakespearean words).
3. Which question do you like the most and why?

And must she die for this?

What good is cover'd with the face of heaven, / To be discover'd, that can do me good?

Tell me what state, what dignity, what honour, / Canst thou demise to any child of mine?

Well then, who dost thou mean shall be her king?

What, thou?

How canst thou woo her?

And wilt thou learn of me?

What were I best to say? Her father's brother / Would be her lord? Or shall I say her uncle? / Or he that slew her brothers and her uncles? / Under what title shall I woo for thee, / That God, the law, my honour, and her love / Can make seem pleasing to her tender years?

What can'st thou swear by now?

But how long fairly shall her sweet life last?

Shall I be tempted of the devil thus?

Shall I forget myself to be myself?

Shall I go win my daughter to thy will?