

The Changeling

**by Middleton and
Rowley**

Critical views on the play

1. Read through the views below and rank them in the order you believe to be correct. Be prepared to explain why.
2. For each of the views, collect evidence from the play to prove that it is correct — be ready to present it to the class.

‘Middleton is concerned not so much with the complexities of human character as with the nature of evil in the world.’

Irving Ribner

‘[Middleton] has no message; he is merely a great recorder.’

T S Eliot

‘It is the tragedy of the not naturally bad but the irresponsible and undeveloped nature, caught in the consequences of its own making.’

T S Eliot

‘[Middleton] was both a great comic writer and a great tragic writer.’

T S Eliot

‘[Middleton] does not rely on explicit statement or direct speech, but upon implication.’

Muriel Bradbrook

‘The theme of man’s tragic blindness pervades Western literature: blindness to the true nature of self and world deprives man of the spiritual perception necessary for a full apprehension of the universe.’

Edward Engelberg