

Exploring Tactics in Shakespeare

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Just as in real life, characters are always using (and changing!) tactics to try and get closer to their objectives. Here are a couple of scene from three different plays in which the characters employ a range of tactics to get closer to their want:

Romeo/Juliet: *Balcony scene (act II, sc ii)*

Helena/ Demetrius "*I am your spaniel*" (act II, sc i)

Lady M/Macbeth *Lady Macbeth convinces Macbeth to kill Duncan (act I sc vii)*

Exercise: Use a scenario or provide basic text (4-6 lines) from any of these Shakespeare scenes. Choose a scene where the stakes are super-high, the situation is clear, and the characters' objectives are easily identified, as with the scenes listed above.

Option: Allow students to 'rehearse' the scene with their partner a few times. Have volunteers share their scenes with the class.

Have the class name the different tactics each actor/character used and what was most effective.

