



## CHARACTER JOURNAL REQUIREMENTS

As a part of our study of Shakespeare's plays, and to help you understand the literary concept *persona*, you will be responsible for keeping a Character Journal. The purpose of this journal is to use the persona of a central character to analyze key issues and events in the play, and to explore how your own personal values and beliefs shape your understanding of events.

### Format requirements

Your journal should have at least one entry per scene in the play. It should be set up like a diary and include the day and time of the entry. It should also be written combining Shakespeare's language and present-day English to create an air of authenticity. You may add illustrations or other embellishments if you wish.

### Content requirements

- Basic:** Your journal gives your character's perspective on the events and how he or she might act in a given situation. You should also predict upcoming events based on the events that have occurred in the scene, and offer advice to the other characters (or ask for advice from them).
- Moderate:** Your journal also gives your character's reactions to the other characters—do you think them foolish, wise, crazy, blind, etc.
- Mastery:** Your journal also includes your character's reflections on the major issues and themes, and demonstrates how personal beliefs influence his or her reactions.

### Thinking questions

- What did your character think of a specific event? How might the character respond to the event? What evidence in the text led you to these conclusions?
- What would he or she do in another character's shoes?
- If your character (or another character) were to be punished for some action or behavior, what consequences would your character consider to be appropriate?
- What reward does the character think is owed to him or her?
- How does he or she feel about other characters?
- What is his or her reaction to other character's actions?
- What does this character think will happen in the future?
- What might this character do to change or influence another character?
- If he or she could give advice to another character, what would it be?
- How could the character warn another about an upcoming event? Would he or she?
- How does society view your character? How does this influence his or her behavior?
- What behavior is expected of the character? Does he or she live up to the expectations? What evidence can you find to prove this?
- What about the character's thoughts or actions might be considered "modern?" How does this attitude affect his or her views or reactions to events?