



## Activities: Key Stage 4 Verse and Prose

To compare the use of verse and prose across Shakespeare's plays to shape characterisation.

1) Find the article 'Verse and Prose' on the web-site. The article discusses the different ways verse and prose are used by Shakespeare in his plays. It explains that, often, prose is used for witty and amusing conversation while verse is used for more formal or ceremonial occasions.

2) Work in pairs or in small groups. Discuss the article with fellow students and identify some examples in the play where verse and prose are used. Some examples are mentioned in the article, but see if you can find other examples from the play.

3) Apply what you know about why writers might use verse and prose to discuss why you think verse or prose has been used in each case.

4) In the last paragraph of the article, it identifies a moment where Benedick's changed feelings are made clear through the use of verse. Decide which of Benedick's speeches show his changed feelings.

5) Next, choose another Shakespeare play you have studied in KS3. Look for examples of the use of prose and verse in this play and decide why you think they have been used. Discuss whether the reasons for prose or verse being used are similar to those mentioned in the article. (You may find it interesting to consider Jaques' line in *As You Like It*: 'Nay then God b'wi'you, an you talk in blank verse.')

6) Present your findings to other groups in the class, ensuring that you select key examples from the other Shakespeare play you have selected which will illustrate what you have found.