

616 Words on Dialogue in Shakespeare

Shakespeare is famed for writing elaborate, mind-twisting sentences (sometimes in verse; sometimes in prose). In truth some of the language in the plays *is* difficult to wade through. At times, however, a short bit of dialogue – a speech by one character or another – seems snatched out of the air within which they speak. It presents a stunning realism: you can imagine that character speaking those words and only those words.

Your assignment is to identify three examples of such dialogue from three different plays that we have read to date. You need not choose long and involved examples. I am thinking about dialogue delivered by one character; perhaps you can find useful examples where more than one character is shown in brief conversation.

Present your examples with appropriate technical formatting. Explain why you believe these examples are excellent instances of pertinent, character-driven speech. Perhaps it is the realism of content, the abruptness of the language, the use of slang or some other reason that prompts you to discuss the example. Explain why it fits the character who speaks it.

Finally, provide an overarching discussion that connects the examples you have presented. Make this into a brief essay about Shakespeare's dialogue, not just a listing of three examples of dialogue. Your introduction and conclusion will necessarily be condensed and brief. Jump intelligently into your material.

Your analysis and discussion should be concise, well written, and approximately 616 words in length. Due as assigned: at the start of class; typed; with a title.