



Pedagogical Pathways: *The Duchess of Malfi* Friendship

Objectives

Before, while, and after reading *The Duchess of Malfi*, these activities can help learners to:

- understand about relationships among characters
- analyze language of relationships
- reflect on the characteristics of true friendship

Guiding Questions

1. What are the characteristics for a good friendship?
2. What are the relationships between Antonio and Delio, Pescara and Julia, Pescara and the Cardinal, and Pescara and Ferdinand?
3. How is this evidenced in the text?

Materials

- Writing surface for mind map for friendship
- Relationship identification worksheet
- Textual evidence worksheet

Activities

Pre-reading: Mind Maps for Friendship

Do you have a good friend? What are the characteristics for a good friendship? Discuss and fill the characteristics of a good friend or a good friendship.



While reading: Relationships

Read Act V Scene I in the play and discuss the following issues with your group members.

- 1) What are the relationships between Antonio and Delio, Pescara and Julia, Pescara and the Cardinal, and Pescara and Ferdinand? Match the characters on the left with the most appropriate relationship on the right.

Antonio and Delio	• Enemy relationship
Cardinal and Julia	• Best Friends forever
Pescara and Delio	• A noble man and a dependent
Cardinal and Antonio	• Siblings
Cardinal and Ferdinand	• Extra-marital relationship

- 2) Regarding the answers for task 1, find textual evidence for each relationship. The following image contains some examples of textual evidence from Act V Scene i that can be used to identify these relationships, but examples are not given for every relationship. If there is not an example below, find one in the text.

Antonio: What think you of my hope of reconcilment /To the Aragonian brethren?

Delio: Much 'gainst his noble nature hath been moved /To seize those lands;

Delio: Sir, I have a suit to you.

Pescara: I will give you ample reason for 't / Soon in private:-here's the cardinal's mistress.

Julia: My lord, I am grown your poor petitioner, / And should be an ill beggar, had I not / A great man's letter here, the cardinal's,....

Delio: I am little bound to you.

Pescara: I should bestow so main a piece of wrong / Upon my friend; 'ts a gratification / Only due to a strumpet, for it is injustice. / Shall I sprinkle the pure blood of innocents / To make those followers I call my friends....

Antonio: When he shall see it fraught with love and duty, / May draw the poison out of him, and work/ A friendly reconcilment: if it fail, / Yet it shall rid me of this infamous calling / For better fall once than be ever falling.

Delio: I'll second you in all danger; and, how'er, / My life keeps rank with yours.

Post-reading: Friendship Videos

In groups, find and watch a YouTube video about friendship or quotes/sayings about friendship (the links below are just suggestions).

1) Discuss the following questions:

- What traits of friends/friendship are shown in the video?
- How does the video link (or fail to link to) what you have discussed in tasks 1 and 2?
- How do the traits of friends/friendship compare with the traits discussed in Act V scene i?

2) Now make your own video about friendship based on what you discussed in tasks 1 and 2.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZHmsVRshwU> : What is a friend? In this video, you can see cute answers.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7w7yXkJTuo> : What is the recipe for friendship? In this video, kids describe the ingredients that go into making friends.