Act 2 scenes 3 and 4

Character: Friar Lawrence

This is the first time we have met the Friar, who will come to play an important part in the lives of Romeo and Juliet. He was Romeo's confessor, the priest to whom he confessed his sins and from whom he received forgiveness. It is obvious that he knows Romeo very well. Act 2 scene 3 gives us a good picture of the Friar and of his relationship with Romeo.

Work on your own

1 Make a list of at least five words that describe the Friar's character. You can choose from the list below, or think of your own words.

   Warning: The list contains a number of words that do not describe the Friar well.

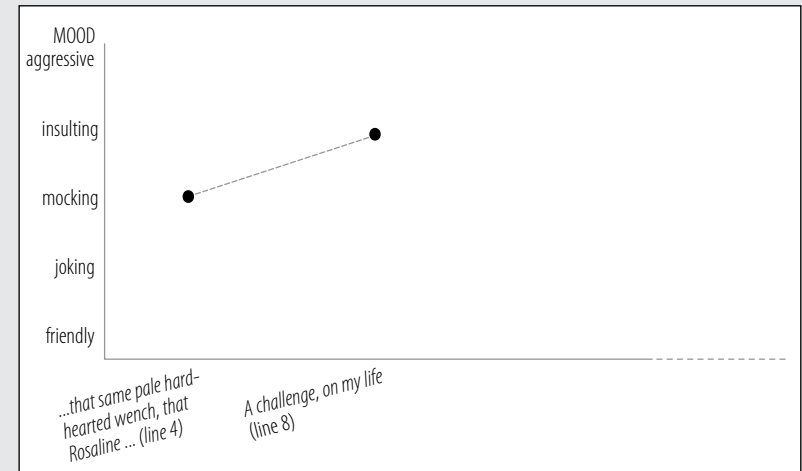|			
irritable	fatherly	strict	lonely
forgetful	intelligent	jokey	God-fearing
knowledgeable	forgiving	nervous	thoughtful
solitary	paternalistic	observant	impatient

2 For each of the words you have chosen, find some **evidence** to support your choice. Copy the table below and use it to record your ideas.

3 Use the 'Explanation' column to link the word you have chosen and the evidence you have found.

Point	Evidence	Explanation
knowledgeable	lines 15–16	He knows all the 'true qualities' of the herbs he is collecting.

Character: Mercutio

Moods

Mercutio's moods change suddenly and frequently and it must be difficult for other characters to know how to 'take him'.

Work with a partner

1 On a large sheet of paper, draw the 'mood temperature' graph shown above and then plot in pencil how and why Mercutio's mood changes during Act 2 scene 4. The graph has been started to show you how to do the task.

Join with another pair

2 Compare your graphs. Discuss the differences. Change and/or add to your graph if you wish.

Qualities

Work on your own

Now make a Point/Evidence/Explanation table for Mercutio. Here are some adjectives to choose from:

clever	comatose	sensitive	lonely
show-off	selfish	morose	sociable
bawdy	witty	quick-witted	handsome