

# 8 - OPHELIA AND POLONIUS

How do you interpret the relationship between Polonius and Ophelia?

## WHAT YOU NEED

- Some pieces of paper, or a notebook and something to write with.
- A computer with internet connection, ready to visit [this page](#).
- A copy of Act 1 Scene 3 from Hamlet, to read either on the page or on your screen.

## ACTIVITY

- Visit the picture gallery of Ophelia on the RSC Learning Zone [here](#) – click on the character of Ophelia to see the images.
- Read the information about Ophelia. Ask yourself which of the images looks most like your idea of Ophelia and why?
- Visit the picture gallery of Polonius on the RSC Learning Zone [here](#) – click on the character of Polonius to see the images.
- Read the information about Polonius. Ask yourself which of these images looks most like your idea of Polonius and why?
- Read Act 1 Scene 3 of Hamlet, from Polonius' line, 'Tis told me he hath very oft of late' to the end of the scene.
- Write a list of all the things Polonius calls Ophelia during this section, and all the things he tells her to do. Can you rephrase the things you have picked out, so that they are in your own words?
- Speak Ophelia's last line aloud. Try saying the line as if Ophelia is dutiful and understands that she has to break up with Hamlet. Now say the line as if Ophelia is resentful and wants to continue her relationship with Hamlet.
- Stand up and make a statue of Ophelia as her father sees her. Then, another statue of how she sees herself. How would you describe the relationship between Ophelia and her father?
- Visit this page on the RSC Learning Zone [here](#) and select 'Polonius and Ophelia: Investigate this relationship.' Work through the activities.

## EXTENSION

- Imagine you are Ophelia at the end of Act 1 Scene 3. Write a blog post as if you are Ophelia, describing how you feel about your father and his advice and why.