**Writing a Character Study**

from the ERB, 2012 revised version

* A character study consists of adjectives (single words) describing a behaviour.
* Each characteristic must be supported by a brief example from the text *(often a quote)*.
* A character study requires language that is concise and precise.

eg. Myra is sensitive as *shown* by Helen’s *comment***,** **“ ” (**53**).**

 (adjective) *revealed* *statement***,**

 *illustrated confession****,***

 *obvious*

 *evident*

 *demonstrated*

 *exemplified*

 **or**

 Myra’s sensitivity is *evident* in her reference to **“**feelings of guilt**” (**53**).**

 *(noun)*

 She is also intelligent**;** an example is her *reference to* her **“**math skills**” (**53**).**

 *comment on*

 *linking word acknowledgement of*

Note the following rules for quotes:

1. Introduce quotes in your own words, rather than starting the sentence with a quote. *incorrect:* “Parting is such sweet sorrow” (III.i.21).
*correct*: Juliet sighs, “Parting is such sweet sorrow” (III.i.21).
2. Memorize various “lead-in” (*transition/linking*) words which can introduce the quote (*lead-in words listed above*).
3. Read your sentence carefully aloud to hear whether it sounds grammatically correct with the quote in it. Read it again! In order to make it sound correct, you may need to eliminate or add words:
4. to your lead-in words *consult page on “character study”.*
5. to the quote (*you may omit unnecessary words from the quote, as long as it still sounds grammatically correct. The omission of these unnecessary words is indicated by an ellipsis – 3 dots above the line*).
6. While you may have to change some sentences if they sound awkward or confusing, try to avoid making changes in the quote itself unless it is to clarify the identity of a pronoun. eg. She **[**Juliet**]** says,

Instead of changing the words in the quote, change your own “lead-in” words.
7. Avoid the following words before a quotation:
8. quote

*incorrect:* Romeo quotes, “I ne’er saw true beauty**/**until this night”

*correct:* Romeo admits (*states, confesses…*), “

*0.*

 ”

1. that

*incorrect:* Romeo states that, “My mind misgives some some consequence yet hanging in the stars ”

*correct:* Romeo states, *“*My mind misgives some some consequence yet hanging in the stars*”*