

Textual Conversations Between
Al Pacino's *Looking for Richard* and
William Shakespeare's *King Richard III*:
a student work ebook



Lessons and exercise based on a comparative study of textual conversations between Al Pacino's *Looking for Richard* and William Shakespeare's *King Richard III*, including analysis of context, content, key ideas and intertextuality

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a student work ebook

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Part 2: Purpose, audience, context and ideas in *Looking for Richard*

Introducing *Looking for Richard*

Let's begin exploring *Looking for Richard* by Al Pacino. The film is structured as a stream-of-consciousness drama documentary released in 1996 that took four years to make. Pacino uses the hand-held camera and random interviews on the street to achieve his purpose of bringing Shakespeare to the general public. The close ups and tilted up camera angles on the faces of the people on the street, showing their reactions to Pacino's questions, shows how important this idea is to the documentary film. Pacino is interested in what people think about Shakespeare in real life.

Looking for Richard trailer



One way to get an idea of what a film will be about it to watch the trailer. The trailer will give you a feel for the audience and purpose of the documentary/drama and the way that the ideas will be presented.



As you watch the trailer, consider what is being said about the following: film making, William Shakespeare as a writer, *King Richard III* as a play and the context of the original play and the time of the film.

See the link below to watch the trailer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVgdtcNwIGQ>

Task 2.1: Interpreting the trailer



TIME: 20 MINS

- i. What is the effect of repeating 'Now is the winter of our discontent' and the word 'deformed'?
- ii. What is Al Pacino's mission? What do you think of Pacino's mission? Can you relate to it?
- iii. What is communicated about Shakespeare?
- iv. What is communicated about Richard III?
- v. What is communicated about Pacino?
- vi. What did you notice about the style of documentary/drama? Jot down notes about the type of film techniques used and their effect.