

# Quotations: Who Said Them and Why They Are Important!

## Why are quotations important to a piece of literature?

- \* They reveal something about a character such as a personality trait or a character's motivation for doing something.
- \* They may reinforce a theme in the literature.
- \* They may advance the plot.
- \* They may foreshadow important events.
- \* They may create suspense.
- \* They may establish relationships between characters or they may show those relationships changing.
- \* They may make the reader feel sympathy for a character or withdraw the reader's sympathy from a character.



### Sample question #1:

For the following key quotation from the play, identify the **speaker, who is being spoken to** and, in your own words, explain why these lines are **important**. (3 marks)

“And, my gracious duke,  
Be it so she will not here before your grace  
Consent to marry with Demetrius,  
I beg the ancient privilege of Athens.  
As she is mine, I may dispose of her—  
Which shall be either to this gentleman  
Or to her death—according to our law  
Immediately provided in that case.”

### Sample Answer:

The speaker of this quotation is Egeus. ✓ (1 mark) He is speaking to Duke Theseus. ✓ (1 mark) This quotation is important because it advances the plot. The reader knows that Egeus has set up a situation where the Duke must make a choice. His choice will determine what happens next for Hermia. ✓ (1 mark)

### Sample question #2:

For the following key quotation from the play, identify the **speaker, who is being spoken to** and, in your own words, explain why these lines are **important**. (3 marks)

“ Oh, were favor so,  
Yours would I catch, fair Hermia, ere I go.  
My ear should catch your voice. My eye, your eye.  
My tongue should catch your tongue's sweet melody.”

### Sample Answer:

The speaker of this quotation is Helena. ✓ (1 mark) She is speaking to Hermia. ✓ (1 mark) This quotation is important because it reveals something about Helena. In this quotation, the reader learns that Helena is jealous of Hermia's beauty because Demetrius loves Hermia more than Helena. ✓ (1 mark)