

TYPES OF TEXT

Text can be divided into the following categories, most of which (if not all) have examples in Shakespeare.

1. Information: recipes, directions, instructions.
2. Objective Description (of a man-made object): may or may not include its function.
3. Lyrical Description (of nature): landscape, animal, person; subjective, probably including relationship, emotion, idea of beauty, etc.
4. Narrative Description (of action): has a beginning, middle, and end; like a car chase or courtship, or a game. Defines an event.
5. Dialogue: Minimum of two people. What causes them to respond to each other?
6. Long Joke: has a punch line that ends it.
7. First Person Stream of Consciousness: internal thinking, like the end of *Ulysses*, or Juliet's poison speech, or Nurse's speech.
8. Rhetorical Persuasion: subjective point of view; intended to influence others; often uses logic; such as Shaw's Devil in *Arms & the Man*, and Portia's *Quality of Mercy* speech.
9. Heightened Emotion: anger, fear, grief or joy; Romeo's *Banished* speech, or Paulina's *What studied torments*, or Titus. What is going on in the speech sounds? How do they contribute?
10. Irony and Sarcasm: to put yourself outside the situation in order to see the humor or to manipulate; non-empathetic, Iago or Richard III.
11. Wit Speak: playing with words, puns; playing off whatever the other person has said; first scene of *Romeo and Juliet* (Mercutio and Romeo); Kate and Petruchio, Mercutio and Tybalt, Richard III and Anne, Richard III and Elizabeth.
12. Clown or Fool: Porter, Lear's fool, Feste
13. Abstract of Philosophical Thought: "Reason thus with life." "All the world's a stage..."
14. Scenes of Mayhem: Ophelia, King Lear, Edgar.
15. Prayer/Chanting: rhythm and sound value, community and communion, spiritual content.
16. Coded Speech/Lies: some slave songs, such as gospel, subtle and hidden anti-authority.
17. Directness/Truth: simple and from the heart; love without heightened language.