



# ORLANDO SHAKESPEARE THEATER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UCF

## Character Motivation

This 10-20 minute activity may be used to explore what motivates characters to act they way they do using active verbs.

Below are lists of Action Verbs. Put the work "To..." in front of each and imagine how a character could use verbal or nonverbal communication to perform that action.

Pick a chapter or scene from a novel you are studying. Assign each student (or group of students) a character in that scene. Instruct them to decide which Action their character is playing in that scene. Is their character play more than one Action during the course of the scene? If so, what makes them switch Actions. Who is their character trying to affect with their Actions?

### ATTACKING VERBS

Accuse  
Attack  
Beat  
Berate  
Blame  
Bully  
Condemn  
Crush  
Destroy  
Frighten  
Intimidate  
Mock  
Persecute  
Pressure  
Punish  
Remind  
Reprimand  
Ridicule  
Scold  
Shame  
Terrorize  
Threaten

### MANIPULATING VERBS

Abandon  
Amaze  
Amuse  
Beg  
Blackmail  
Bluff  
Entrap  
Flatter  
Goad  
Hound  
Hush  
Infect  
Misdirect  
Nag  
Own  
Patronize  
Paw  
Pester  
Question  
Shame  
Shock  
Stalk  
Tempt  
Test

### LOVING VERBS

Admire  
Adore  
Bless  
Charm  
Coax  
Coddle  
Compliment  
Defend  
Embrace  
Encourage  
Flatter  
Fortify  
Heal  
Idolize  
Lure  
Massage  
Nuzzle  
Ordain  
Organize  
Pamper  
Pardon  
Seduce  
Tease  
Urge