Examine the ways in which Richard and Bullingbrooke are contrasted in the opening acts of the play

Chris

Shakespeare contrasts Richard and Bullinbrooke through their personalities; although in different ways. One interpretation is that they are contrasted through speech. Two other interpretations that will be examined are the character's interactions/attitudes with *common people* and the way in which setting distinguishes the characters.

The dynamic between Richard and Bullingbrooke's use of speech is seen through Richard's use of symbolism and metaphors; whereas Bullingbrooke speaks more directly.

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The dynamic between Richard's eloquent speech and Bullinbrooke's concise dialogue establishes contrast in the opening acts of the play. Richard is more eloquent and scholarly in his speeh Moreover differences through speech also suggest that Richard is more diplomatic whereas Bullingbrooke is willing to die for his honour. B is a man of action

Contrast can also be examined via Richard and Bullingbrooke's interactions/attitudes with the *common people*. Richard accounts how Bullingbrooke, "Observed his courtship to the common people" (4.1) and "[dove] into their hearts with humble and familiar courtesy". The imagery of Bullingbrooke "diving" into the "common people's" heart, with "familiar courtesy" suggests that Bullingbrooke is in touch with the common people. However, Richard's attitudes towards Bullingbrooke's action and the people themselves suggest he is more distant towards his people.

Richard accounts of how Bullingbrooke, "Observed his courtship to the common people" (4.1). Richards dismissal of this suggests that he views his own subjects as inferior and not worth spending time with, whereas Bullingbrooke is. Richard ultimately believes that his own subjects as slaves. Wastes his courtesy

familiar

suggests that