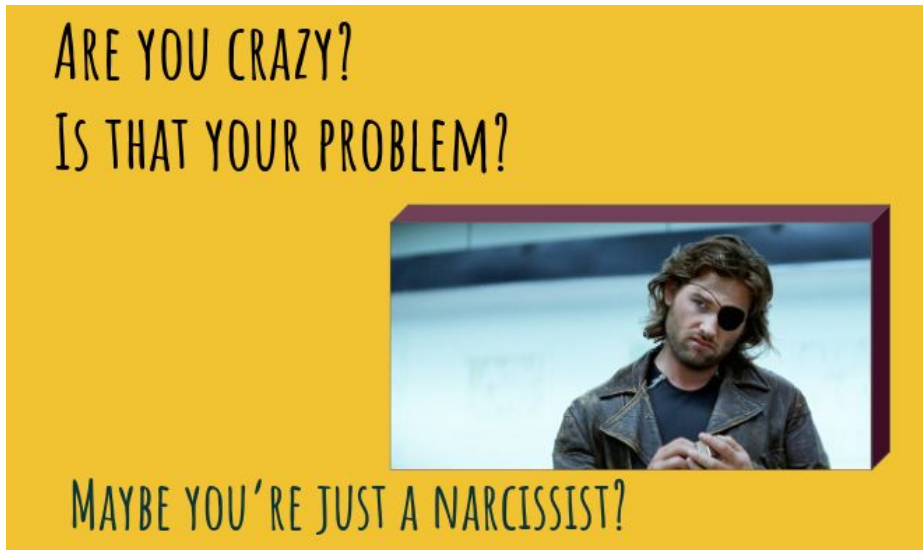


Before We Leave Shakespeare



Aaron the Moor
Iago
Richard III
Macbeth
Hamlet

EXPLORING THE NARCISSISM OF SHAKESPEARE'S VILLAINS

Reflecting on the five Shakespearean villains presented in class, make a case that two of these figures do or do not exhibit enough narcissistic symptoms to be identified as suffering from [Narcissistic personality disorder](#). (Click on the link to access the Mayo Clinic)

You may choose any two of the villains to consider. Your evidence as you evaluate whether they suffer from this personality disorder will come from the details and actions described in the plot overview (as well as the plot summaries provided to you in class) and evidence from the three key speeches which you will read and interpret for indications of the disorder.

Create a scale of narcissism and identify how the two compare. You will find the Mayo Clinics list of symptoms commonly exhibited by the narcissistic personality on the back of this instruction sheet.

Finally, for both men, explain whether or not you think the narcissistic tendencies are the direct cause of the villainous behavior by these men.

Which is the most dangerous in your view?

Before We Leave Shakespeare



MAYO CLINIC

HEALTH SYSTEM

Signs and symptoms of narcissistic personality disorder and the severity of symptoms vary. People with the disorder can:

- Have an exaggerated sense of self-importance
- Have a sense of entitlement and require constant, excessive admiration
- Expect to be recognized as superior even without achievements that warrant it
- Exaggerate achievements and talents
- Be preoccupied with fantasies about success, power, brilliance, beauty or the perfect mate
- Believe they are superior and can only associate with equally special people
- Monopolize conversations and belittle or look down on people they perceive as inferior
- Expect special favors and unquestioning compliance with their expectations
- Take advantage of others to get what they want
- Have an inability or unwillingness to recognize the needs and feelings of others
- Be envious of others and believe others envy them

- Behave in an arrogant or haughty manner, coming across as conceited, boastful and pretentious
- Insist on having the best of everything — for instance, the best car or office

At the same time, people with narcissistic personality disorder have trouble handling anything they perceive as criticism, and they can:

- Become impatient or angry when they don't receive special treatment
- Have significant interpersonal problems and easily feel slighted
- React with rage or contempt and try to belittle the other person to make themselves appear superior
- Have difficulty regulating emotions and behavior
- Experience major problems dealing with stress and adapting to change
- Feel depressed and moody because they fall short of perfection
- Have secret feelings of insecurity, shame, vulnerability and humiliation