CLEOPATRA IN ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA

Shakespeare's Characterisation Techniques



CHARACTERISATION THROUGH CONTRADICTION

- Cleopatra is inconsistent and multifaceted
- Passionate yet manipulative
- Vulnerable yet commanding
- Embodies change and emotional excess



CLEOPATRA AS A PERFORMER

- Self-conscious theatricality
- Stages emotions deliberately
- Uses spectacle to command attention
- Controls her public image



CHARACTERISATION THROUGH LANGUAGE

- Rich, imaginative, and hyperbolic language
- Emotional and sensuous speech
- Elevates herself into myth and legend



OTHERS' VIEWS OF CLEOPATRA

- Romans portray her as dangerous and corrupting
- Enobarbus admires her 'infinite variety'
- Multiple perspectives create ambiguity



GENDER AND POWER

- Challenges Roman and patriarchal values
- Exercises sexual and political authority
- Combines dominance with vulnerability



CLEOPATRA'S DEATH

- Final act of self-definition
- Refuses Roman humiliation
- Death staged as ritual and spectacle
- Transforms into legend



CONCLUSION

- Cleopatra is fluid, theatrical, and resistant to definition
- Shakespeare creates a modern, complex heroine
- Characterisation depends on contradiction and performance

