

## School for Scandal — Comedy

- **Wit:**
  - **Lady Sneerwell to Joseph:** “O lud, you are going to be moral and forget that you are among friends” (I, 1)
  - **Rowley to Sir Peter:** “I’m sure your lady, Sir Peter, can’t be the cause of your uneasiness. SIR PETER: Why, has anybody told you she was dead?”
  - **Lady Teazle to Sir Peter:** “If you wanted authority over me, you should have adopted me and not married me. I am sure you were old enough.” (II, 1)
  - **Lady Teazle and Sir Peter:** “Sir Peter: I have made you my wife. LADY TEAZLE: Well then — and there is but one thing you can make me to add to the obligation, and that is — SIR PETER: My widow, I suppose?” (II, 1)
- **Sarcasm & hypocrisy:**
  - **Joseph to Snake:** “Sir, your very devoted. Exit Snake Lady Sneerwell, I am very sorry you have put any further confidence in that fellow.” (I, 1)
  - **Joseph to Mrs Candour:** “Ah, Mrs Candour, if everybody had your forbearance and good nature!” (I, 1)
  - **Mrs Candour, in reply to Joseph:** “I own I always love to think the best. By the bye, I hope ‘tis not true your brother is absolutely ruined?” (I, 1)
  - **Sir Peter to Lady Teazle and her School for Scandal:** “A charming set of acquaintance you have made there!” (II, 2)
  - **Sir Peter while Sir Oliver learns how to act like a moneylender:** “A good honest trade you’re learning, Sir Oliver.” (III, 1)
  - **Joseph to Rowley, upon hearing of Sir Oliver’s arrival:** “Well, I am strangely overjoyed at his coming. (Aside) Never to be sure was anything so damned unlucky!” (V, 2)
  - **Sir Oliver to the School for Scandal:** “Then, upon my word, for a person in that situation he is the most imprudent man alive; for here he comes, walking as if nothing at all was the matter.” (V, 2)
- **Slandering:**
  - **Mrs Candour to Lady Sneerwell:** “My dear Lady Sneerwell, how have you been this century?” (I, 1)
  - **Mrs Candour on Miss Vermilion’s hair:** “I’ll swear her colour is natural. I have seen it come and go.” (II, 2)
- **Action / slapstick / farce:**
  - **Lady Sneerwell on Crabtree and Sir Benjamin, continuously going and returning:** “Ha, ha! ‘tis very hard for them to leave a subject they have not quite run down.” (I, 1)
  - **Sir Benjamin & Crabtree’s double act, on Mrs Candour’s cousin Ogle:** “SIR BENJAMIN: An Irish front... CRABTREE: Caledonian locks...”, “SIR BENJAMIN: her face resembles a table d’hôte at Spa, where no two guests are of a nation — CRABTREE: Or a Congress at the close of a general war — wherein all the members, even to her eyes, appear to have a different interest, and her nose and chin are the only parties likely to join issue.” (II, 2)
- **Situation:**
  - **Lady Teazle enters while Joseph tries to seduce Maria:** “But you seemed to adopt a very tender mode of reasoning. Do you usually argue on your knees?” (II, 2)
  - **Entire screen scene:** Lady Teazle hears Sir Peter express his love for her, Sir Peter very nearly hears of Joseph’s attempts to seduce Lady Teazle

- **Repetition:**
  - **Lady Teazle and Sir Peter arguing:** “SIR PETER: *my dear [...], my love [...]* LADY TEAZLE: *my love*” (III, 1)
  - **Charles to Joseph:** “*Stanley! Why his name is Premium.* JOSEPH: *No, no, Stanley.* CHARLES: *No, no, Premium.*” (V, 3)
- **Dramatic irony:**
  - **Charles to Sir Oliver:** “*Yes, yes, he breaks apace, I’m told – and so much altered lately that his nearest relations don’t know him.*” (III, 3)
  - **Entire screen scene:** Lady Teazle hears Sir Peter express his love for her, Sir Peter very nearly hears of Joseph’s attempts to seduce Lady Teazle
- **Character names:** Captain Boastall, Miss Prim, Sir Filigree Flirt, Mrs Clackitt, Mr & Mrs Honeymoon, Miss Tattle, Lord Buffalo (charging), Lord Spindle, Sir Thomas Splint, Mr Nickit, Miss Nicely, Miss Sallow, Lady Stucco (architecture – added decoration), Mrs Candour (freedom from prejudice & malice, unstained purity), Charles & Joseph Surface (they are judged by what’s on the surface)
- **Stereotyping & caricature:**
  - Backbite and Crabtree
  - Money-lenders
- **Joseph’s pathetic and inefficient attempts to tangle himself out of the mess he has put himself in**