
SECTION B: Restoration Drama (EN352), relating to plays written between 1660 and 1709.

7. Comment on the following extract in the context of Restoration drama. Do NOT write a line-by-line commentary but use it to explore the dramatic and theatrical themes and conventions of the Restoration stage, with detailed reference to the play from which it comes and AT LEAST one other play.

Lov. Can you then doubt my Constancy, *Amanda*?
You'll find 'tis built upon a steady Basis –
The Rock of Reason now supports my Love,
On which it stands so fix'd,
The rudest Hurricane of wild Desire
Would, like the Breath of a soft slumbring Babe,
Pass by, and never shake it.

Aman. Yet still 'tis safer to avoid the Storm;
The strongest Vessels, if they put to Sea,
May possibly be lost.
Wou'd I cou'd keep you here, in this calm Port, for ever!
Forgive the Weakness of a Woman,
I am uneasie at your going to stay so long in Town,
I know its false insinuating Pleasures;
I know the Force of its Delusions;
I know the Strength of its Attacks;
I know the weak Defence of Nature;
I know you are a Man – and I...a Wife.

[Sir John Vanbrugh, *The Relapse*, I.i.52-69]

