

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL, ACT I

Directions: Consider each excerpt below—interpret the quotations briefly, then make connections among characters and ideas in the text, then beyond the text to other texts, your experiences, or contemporary society, and be prepared to discuss your findings.

COLLECT	CONNECT
<i>Lady Sneer.</i> Yes, my dear Snake; and I am no hypocrite to deny the satisfaction I reap from the success of my efforts. Wounded myself, in the early part of my life, by the envenomed tongue of slander, I confess I have since known no pleasure equal to the reducing others to the level of my own reputation.	
<i>Jos. Surf.</i> Nothing more likely; take my word for't Lady Sneerwell, that fellow hasn't virtue enough to be faithful even to his own villany. Ah, Maria!	
<i>Lady Sneer.</i> Psha! there's no possibility of being witty without a little ill nature: the malice of a good thing is the barb that makes it stick. What's your opinion, Mr. Surface?	
<i>Sir Ben.</i> To say truth, ma'am, 'tis very vulgar to print; and as my little productions are mostly satires and lampoons on particular people, I find they circulate more by giving copies in confidence to the friends of the parties.	

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<p><i>Mrs. Can.</i> Why, to be sure, a tale of scandal is as fatal to the credit of a prudent lady of her stamp as a fever is generally to those of the strongest constitutions. But there is a sort of puny sickly reputation, that is always ailing, yet will outlive the robuster characters of a hundred prudes.</p>	
<p>Now, add two quotations of your own choosing from Act I, Scene ii relating to marriage, and connect:</p>	

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER: What insights do we gain into Sheridan's commentary on "scandal," society, and marriage in Act I? Which specific humor devices contribute?