

- It could be argued that Shakespeare does not wish to analyse jealousy but use it as the onset to the evil cycle in his play, which is quickly followed by repentance and reconciliation.
- Shakespeare's audience may have accepted this sudden emotion more easily than by a modern audience who actually search for psychological answers to problems.
- The Renaissance audience might have seen it as an attack of a melancholy humour; one of the four bodily fluids believed to shape one's temperament.

Regeneration

- Another significant theme which pervades the play.
- It is **emphasised on the fertility in the figure of Perdita**. In many ways the whole play can be read as a fertility myth or allegory.
- **Both Perdita and Hermione are lost** – Hermione dies and goes to the underworld (Hades), also does Perdita as in the Proserpine myth.
- When the ladies discuss **Hermione's pregnancy** it is discussed as a joyful experience and **the renewal of life**.
- In act IV Perdita expresses the same joy in creation and fertility.
- Perdita represents the powerful force of nature which is uncorrupted by civilisation.
- The **marriage between Perdita and Florizel** symbolizes the meeting of civilisation and nature and symbolises the cycle of **procreation, regeneration and fertility**.
- The restoration of Hermione and Perdita moves the characters lives from winter into a new spring.
- **Polixenes and Leontes and Hermione** thus achieve immortality through their own children. **All characters experience a new sense of regeneration.**

Forgiveness and Reconciliation

- The many themes found in The Winter's Tale often seem to centre around the basic idea of forgiveness and reconciliation.
- At the onset the evil arrives suddenly through Leontes' mind as he causes the death of Mamillius and Hermione and loss