COMFRE6006 Week 11: Activity on *La Princesse de Clèves*

**—Task—**

This task involves a creative response to the section of the novel in which Mme de Chartres covertly warns her daughter Mme de Clèves of the dangers of pursuing a liaison with M. de Nemours. You will rewrite the scene using Mme de Clèves as a homodiegetic narrator in order to explore her thoughts, feelings and perceptions at this point in the story. You should follow these steps:

**— Preliminary reading —**

1. Reread the scene: English pp. 36–7 ‘Mme de Chartres had not wished to let her daughter see...what she had so far hidden from her.’; French pp. 112–13 ‘Madame de Chartres n’avait pas voulu laisser voir...ne lui avait point encore dit.’ (available as pdf on QMplus if required)

**— Preliminary analysis —**

2. Why is this passage important within the wider context of the novel?

3. What are the key themes/ideas covered in this passage?

4. Which narrative techniques strike you as important in this passage? (e.g. aspects of characterization, treatment of narrative time, focalization, narrative levels, speech/thought representation etc.)

5. Which critical readings of the play would be useful to your analysis? (you may not have covered enough secondary literature to answer this yet!)

**— Creative preparation —**

6. What will rewriting this scene with the Princesse de Clèves as homodiegetic narrator allow you to achieve?

7. Which ideas or themes will you seek to explore in your creative rewriting?

8. Which narrative techniques will you seek to develop/change, beyond the switch to a homodiegetic narrator?

**—Creative response—**

9. Write the opening paragraph of your creative response exploring the Princesse de Clèves’ thoughts and feelings during this episode and using her as a homodiegetic narrator. FRE6006 students should write theirs in French.

**— Reflection —**

10. How did you find this activity? What did your creative response allow you to explore? What did it teach you about the original text? Write a few sentences of reflection to conclude the activity.

*Please upload your writing from both activities to the wiki and I will provide feedback.*