Learner resource 1.3

Bosola: stock malcontent or complex character?

In groups or pairs, discuss Webster’s characterisation of Bosola.
Your discussion should focus upon the question:
Is Bosola merely a malcontent or is he justified in acting the way he does?
The following should help you to consider this question:
• Why does Bosola seek revenge upon the Cardinal?
• Why is Bosola prepared to spy on the Duchess, to assist Ferdinand to take her prisoner and to organise her execution?
• Why does Bosola appear to change sides immediately after the Duchess has been killed?
• To what extent is Bosola’s motivation simply financial gain?

Make notes and quote from the play to support your responses.