

AP English Literature and Composition

***The Taming of the Shrew* assessment activities**

Persuasive Essay (120 points)

Respond to this topic in a well-organized and meticulously-proofread essay.

Portia Minola, an independent land-owning woman from Venice, recently received the news from her gossipy cousin Bianca that Katherine, the defiant and tempestuous shrew, has not only married but declared at her sister's wedding feast,

"I am ashamed that women are so simple
To offer war where they should kneel for peace;
Or seek for rule, supremacy and sway,
When they are bound to serve, love and obey."

Portia cannot believe that her favorite cousin is so changed and immediately writes to Katherine at her new home with Petruchio in Verona to express her concern.

As Katherine, your task is to write a letter to your cousin Portia, clearly defining your identity and defending your marriage to Petruchio as well as your wedding speech. Because you are attempting to persuade your cousin to accept your transformation, you must be cognizant of audience and offer counterargument in your letter.

Motif Tracking Assignment (80 points)

A motif is a recurrent image, word, object, phrase, or action that unifies the work and highlights significant ideas and themes. You may work in pairs (Choose wisely the partner with whom you can work effectively and productively.) to create a final product that reveals how you have tracked the motif through the course of the play.

Your product must include the following:

- thesis statement: What central meaning or theme does the motif develop?
- the five most significant quotations, at least one from each act preferably, that support your thesis (with citations)
- detailed paragraph-length explanations for each of the quotations you have chosen (beginning with an effective topic sentence; showing how the quotation supports your thesis and theme statements; and making apt reference to function of literary devices such as *allusion, characterization, comedy, contrast, detail, diction, double entendre, figurative language, foil, imagery, irony, motif, setting, symbol, syntax, theme, tone*)
- visual element(s) that reveal your insight into the topic

You may choose from among the following motifs or another topic of your creation:

1. abuse of power
2. subversion of power
3. honesty and deception in courtship
4. sibling rivalry
5. disguise as a form of deceit
6. façade
7. social expectations (of women, men, servants, masters, children, parents)
8. taming of wildness
9. transformation of identity
10. consistency of identity
11. word play a battle

Optional Assignments

You may choose to complete one or two of the following tasks in order to earn bonus points that will be added to your total points and thus improve your grade. Be prepared to present your assignment(s) to the class.

1. Perform a recitation of a speech by Kate or Petruchio (see reverse side) for the class. You will be evaluated according to the following criteria:
Fluency and pace (speaking without pausing or being prompted), 10 points
Accuracy (reciting Shakespeare's exact words with correct pronunciation and in proper order), 10 points
Delivery (using appropriate voice and body language while maintaining eye contact), 10 points
Interpretation (conveying emotion of the character and apt meaning of the passage), 10 points
2. Choose two central and opposing characters, and begin this activity by making a list of objects and images associated with each character that you will use in the creation of your poems. Using Sandra Cisneros's "Abuelito Who" as your model, write two poems that convey each character's most essential traits. (40 points)
3. Create a visual product that expresses the essence of this play, choosing all elements of the creation with careful intent—form, size, colors, textures, objects, and details. Compose a detailed paragraph, explaining how your product encapsulates the work's theme. Be prepared to explain to the class as well. (40 points)

Kate (Act 5, Scene 2)

Such duty as the subject owes the prince
Even such a woman oweth to her husband;
And when she is froward, peevish, sullen, sour,
And not obedient to his honest will,
What is she but a foul contending rebel
And graceless traitor to her loving lord?
I am ashamed that women are so simple
To offer war where they should kneel for peace;
Or seek for rule, supremacy and sway,
When they are bound to serve, love and obey.
Why are our bodies soft and weak and smooth,
Unapt to toil and trouble in the world,
But that our soft conditions and our hearts
Should well agree with our external parts?
Come, come, you froward and unable worms!
My mind hath been as big as one of yours,
My heart as great, my reason haply more,
To bandy word for word and frown for frown;
But now I see our lances are but straws,
Our strength as weak, our weakness past compare,
That seeming to be most which we indeed least are.
Then vail your stomachs, for it is no boot,
And place your hands below your husband's foot:
In token of which duty, if he please,
My hand is ready; may it do him ease.

Petruchio (Act 4, Scene 1)

Thus have I politicly begun my reign,
And 'tis my hope to end successfully.
My falcon now is sharp and passing empty;
And till she stoop she must not be full-gorged,
For then she never looks upon her lure.
Another way I have to man my haggard,
To make her come and know her keeper's call,
That is, to watch her, as we watch these kites
That bate and beat and will not be obedient.
She eat no meat to-day, nor none shall eat;
Last night she slept not, nor to-night she shall not;
As with the meat, some undeserved fault
I'll find about the making of the bed;
And here I'll fling the pillow, there the bolster,
This way the coverlet, another way the sheets:
Ay, and amid this hurly I intend
That all is done in reverend care of her;
And in conclusion she shall watch all night:
And if she chance to nod I'll rail and brawl
And with the clamour keep her still awake.
This is a way to kill a wife with kindness;
And thus I'll curb her mad and headstrong humour.
He that knows better how to tame a shrew,
Now let him speak: 'tis charity to show.

Abuelito Who

Sandra Cisneros

Abuelito who throws coins like rain
and asks who loves him
who is dough and feathers
who is a watch and glass of water
whose hair is made of fur
is too sad to come downstairs today
who tells me in Spanish you are my diamond
who tells me in English you are my sky
whose little eyes are string
can't come out to play
sleeps in his little room all night and day
who used to laugh and like the letter k
is sick
is a doorknob tied to a sour stick
is tired shut the door
doesn't live here anymore
is hiding underneath the bed
who talks to me inside my head
is blankets and spoons and big brown shoes
who snores up and down up and down up and down again
is the rain on the roof that falls like coins
asking who loves him
who loves him who?