

These notes include brief explanations regarding 4 of Shakespeare's plays, it can also help you develop some key concepts in Literature.

Shakespeare ENGL431

Monday, March 21st 2022

-Shakespeare is a playwright and an actor, he was also a shareholder in " Lord Chamberlain's men".

He is also a famous poet.

> other famous playwrights: 1-Christopher marlowe: " Dr. Faustus"

2-Ben Johnson: a comedy writer.

His play had only one copy(he used to write using feathers)

- The person who responsible for manuscripts was named a "book holder"
- The theater was named the Globe in 1599
- Shakespeare was born in Stratford Upon Avon in 1564-1616.
- It was called the Globe because it was round in shape, without any roof.
- Plays were performed during daylight in May- October.
- The balcony was to perform a scene in Romeo and Juliet, it was also used for musicians.
- The tiring house was used for exchanging costumes→ (Elizabethan Era).
- The Audience: a mixture of social classes, also the noisy people who Shakespeare called "groundlings" or "penny stinkers"

- His language is : verse poetry.

- He also used the iambic pentameter: unstressed syllables followed by a stressed syllable, a pentameter is 5 units.
- This rhythm expresses emotions of humans, it also attracts readers/ listeners attention. It is easier to memorize.
- Shakespeare speaks a lot of Death, revenge, love and time.

Wednesday, March 23rd, 2022

-Soliloquy> soliloquies : is a speech given by a character when he is on his own on the stage, it reflects their own state of mind, their inner thoughts are revealed, and conflict plans.

- By addressing himself and the audience, they sympathize with the character, and engage with it.

- the audience gets to acquire information and knowledge (Dramatic Irony) "to be or not to be, that is the question" *Hamlet*.

Aside: dramatic techniques used by Shakespeare.

The character is speaking, there are also other characters on the stage who pretend not to hear. Aside is shorter than soliloquy, it is usually 1-2 lines long.

Allusion: it is a literary term referring to literature, mythology, history. It is for expressing an idea in a few words.

-The Structure of Shakespeares's plays:

1- Exposition

2- Rising Action, conflict.

3- Climax

4- Falling action.

5- Resolution.

-Exposition includes background information(setting, character, action)

-His plays also have 2 plots:

1- the primary plot: the relationship of the marriage between Desdemona and Othello)

2- Conflict-War plot: Turks(Cyprus) vs Venetians (venice)

3- the setting is located in venice> it is a wealthy city, artistic and strong as a ruling class(center of civilizations) and they needed military support, some of the soldiers were from Spain, North Africa.

Moors:

Dark skinned Africans, they are also muslim.

- Themes in Shakespeare's plays:

1- Jealousy (Frenemy): a friend who is an enemy underneath.

2- Racism

He uses very little stage directions, they usually include a description of the setting and the characters.

They are incorporated with the language.

Othello: Hast(has), Thou(you), Thine (mine), Abhor(hate), Thy(your).

Monday, March 28th, 2022

-Shakespearean Tragedy, and Venice in Othello's time.

Elements of Shakespearean Tragedy:

1- Tragic Hero: the suffering of the hero, and a death-like situation, which means there is a tragic flaw: an error that he commits. He holds a high position in society(kings, military rank) and his failure creates chaos.

2- Good vs Evil: both good and bad characters die at the end.

3- Ambiguity of poetic justice: Good is rewarded and Evil is punished.

4-Hamartia: error of judgment, a sin. The pride>a decision to continue in investigating his origin.

5- Supernatural elements: the appearance of witches, and ghosts. Such as creating a sense of fear and guilt.

6-Tragic waste: when the tragic hero dies at the end.

7-Conflict: External and Internal conflict.

8- Comic relief: a scene from a comic in order to relieve tension.

9- Catharsis: the reaction of the audience towards the characters and the play itself> develops a kind of fear, sympathy in the audience too.

-Cleanse the feelings of sympathy and fear from our system. The way it's not related to real life since it's fictional, and imaginative.

-Where does the play Othello open? Venice

>Political crisis is between the Venetians and the Turks.

> it was ruled as a Republic, Oligarchy(Dukes and other noble men).

> Venice ruled in Cyprus, Rhodes. (East Mediterranean)

> they relied their power on mercenaries.

> Othello: North Africa, Cassio: Florence, Iago: Spanish name.

-The play begins as Media Res(a middle of things).

> Action: Cassio's promotion by Othello. Another action is the occurrence of war, and the elopement of Desdemona, and Othello.

> Brabantio is the father of Desdemona.

> A link between the political (crisis) and the personal (marriage).

> patriarchal society, and the traditional values and the subservience of women.

> Character: Othello's name is not mentioned, he is referred by the pronoun "he", "Moor", "thick-lips", "Barbary Horse". "Coursera": the horse keeper. "Jennets": baby horse. Animalistic Imagery.

> making the beast with two backs: having a sexual relationship with Desdemona.

> Iago manipulates language for his own purposes to show hatred. He is also envious of Cassio and Othello. He also manipulates characters such as Roderigo.

> Brabantio: he is a traditional man, easy to manipulate. He holds an important social place in society. (noble man) he consults the Duke in a personal issue.

Scene 1 > streets in Venice- near Brabantio's house.

Scene 2 > Duke's palace > it is a political place that represents authority, wealth, law and regulations. iniquity > insufficient.

Wednesday, March 30th, 2022

Iago's Soliloquy (act 1, scene 3 lines 425- 447).

-Iago's personality is more manipulative, and materialistic.

-Roderigo is more innocent and he gives money to Iago.

- Iago hates Othello, and Othello trusts Iago and sees him as trustworthy. He is also racist and uses animal imagery, and he has a plan towards Othello.

-Othello is identified as a man who got married to a Venetian lady, he is also a military leader.

- Othello is also confident as a military leader.

How does Othello defend himself in the Duke's palace?

He shows that he is a humble man, pretending.

> won: he is objectifying his wife, and perhaps he is used to being in a battle field a lot.

Desdemona: she respects her father by using the word 'noble', she also describes Othello as "Lord", Father, Husband. 'Duty' > a male dominated society where there are no women represented in the play.

Iago's soliloquy:

- 427> he uses keywords such as "fool": stupid, silly, naive.
 - 'Purse' objectifying Roderigo.
 - 'profane', 'knowledge' is an Allusion to the story of Adam and Eve. except for 'sport' and 'profit' (entertainment and material profits).
 - "The end justifies the means" by Machiavelli.
 - It is thought > using the passive voice. He isn't responsible for his own sayings and the rumors he starts.
 - 'Office' ruining the marriage between Othello and Desdemona, he is thinking of marriage as materialistic.
 - 'Double knavery' he wants to do two things, such as breaking up the marriage, and regaining Cassio's position.
 - He is thinking of a plan because he will use Cassio's familiarization with Desdemona as a way to take revenge on Othello.
 - He says that Othello is free and open, and thinks highly of people, and he is trustworthy.
 - "Seeming" appears as something that he's not.
 - Iago is self-centered, and double-faced → detachment from others. He is also manipulative → proud of manipulating others. He is a planner- plans to show destruction of others.
- Othello > blindness and trustworthy, lust.
- Foreshadowing: a sense of calamity, such as breaking Othello and Desdemona's marriage.

Use of Language:

1- Diction, Rhythm, animal imagery, iambic pentameter.

e.g > 434: "the better shall my purpose work on him"

Blank-verse: when the last line doesn't have any rhythm.

Monday, April 4th, 2022

Act 2: the political plot of war with the Turks ends.

1- the first scene takes place at the cape sea. (Cyprus) it is a center of civilization, order, and laws. Whereas, we move to Cyprus from order to disorder. We also have a rising action- conflict: Cassio, Roderigo.

Cassio, Montano.

Cassio, Othello.

2-it is destroyed by a storm, and it destroys the Turkish ships. Line 5-20 page 59. After the storm the political war ends> it is also a natural destructive power, it reflects the human body.

3-the importance is that Shakespeare wants us to realize that the war is going to end soon, so we can look forward to the next event.

4- because their wars with the Turks ended and the Turks drowned at sea and Othello survived, so they are celebrating their victory. He also celebrates his marriage with Desdemona.

5-Tragic hero : well-regarded, and highly respected (succeed, well-tuned, worthy governor, brave, the general, Warlike Moor Othello: he is a powerful man on the battlefield, and using racist references such as Moor.

6- " he hath achieved a maid" a way of objectifying women. Page 63.

Paragons description: exceeds beauty and fame. Blazoning pen: as a pen that writes sharply. Elevating Desdemona to divinity,line 80 page 65.

Cassio's feelings of Desdemona: respect, admiration.

Iago's 2nd Soliloquy: Page 79

- He sees the good qualities in Othello as a kind of weakness.

Wednesday, April 6th, 2022

- The end at Act 2 actions:

>Cassio gets demoted, and he loses his reputation, and being a

>Drunkard. Line 280 "a sense of loss"

>Othello: he is angry for the first time. Page 95 Line 219.

>Iago: Cassio thinks of him as "Honest", Othello thinks likewise and describes him as "most honest".

>the question is " who could think that I am evil when i give honesty to others?"

>inclining: persuading. Innuendo, and it shows some sexual implication of Desdemona seducing him.

- A Rhetorical question: doesn't need an answer, and the answer is clear.

>"she's framed as fruitful/ as the free elements' ' he is comparing Desdemona to fruits that are easily acquired. (Simile)

> she has an appetite for lust.

>Divinity of Hell: it is a paradox, he is talking about him being a villain inside and a good man outside.

>"honest fool": describing Cassio.

> Pestilence: :Poison him by saying bad thoughts to his ear.(it represents the whole body and thought.

- The use of the word "So". he uses the word net as a metaphor, and Iago will use her goodness as a kind of trap that will deceive others. He is Self-Aware.

Monday, April 11th, 2022

Act 3:

>Iago and his plan taking action.

> Othello's mind insinuation: through hints, and implications.

The keyword is jealousy: he uses the expression ' a green-eyed monster that mocks the meat it feeds on' destroys the relationship with others, and the person's own self-image.

>The transformation of Othello.

Iago's plan takes place in the Act, and the musicians show that Othello is starting to be hot-tempered, and the clown is a kind of comic relief.

Quotes Importance:

>Perdition: hell. 'Chaos': his love with Desdemona makes him peaceful and calms him.

>'Good name' what Cassio said about Reputation. 'Jewel to their souls' is at the core of their hearts, so it is valuable. 'Purse': money.

>Insinuation by Iago that Othello's wife is unfaithful.

>He is telling him to observe Desdemona with Cassio, because he is a noble man, and things like this will ruin his place as a Moor.

>5-6 Othello's Soliloquy: Dramatic Irony : 'This Fellow's of exceeding honesty' he sees Iago as an Ideal type of man. ' Haply, I am black' he is insecure about himself, for being a black man, and he is getting old. He associates women with lust when he uses the word 'appetite'.

> he wants proof of his wife's assumed cheating.

>if you cannot provide me with the 'ocular' proof, Otherwise, his anger will be unleashed and he will kill Iago.

> Iago's Proof, page 147(Line 467). He talks about Cassio's dream of Desdemona. The actual proof is the Handkerchief.

>this quote shows us how Othello is now becoming a monster, "Arise, black vengeance, from the hollow hell!"

Page 151: both Othello (protagonist), and Iago(antagonist) kneel down and rise up together. They share some common goal, and that goal is to kill Cassio and get revenge out of Desdemona. They mirror each other.

Wednesday, April 13th, 2022

An important symbol in Act 3:

-The handkerchief.

Shakespeare's use of the handkerchief:

1- Othello, Desdemona: Token of Love.

2-The history of it to Othello's family, as Heritage.

3- There is magic in it.

It has the color of strawberries, and it is also white: which represents the wedding bed sheets. The red resembles that the woman is a virgin, and blood- Consummation of their wedding.

> the white sheets represent purity, the red represents virginity.

To Othello, it is a symbol of their loyalty to each other.

Handkerchief ownership: Egyptian Chamber→ Othello's mother→ Othello→ Desdemona→ Emilia→ Iago→ Cassio→ Bianca.

-It is now an ocular proof of betrayal.

>It is not owned by Desdemona anymore, so it loses its symbolic value.

-The connection among women in the play: Desdemona, Bianca and so on.

Act 4: Turning point.

>Iago's Influence through language.

> Othello's transformation is at its height, it starts by verbal violence, then it moves to physical violence.

- He slaps her in public as he continues to humiliate her.

- Women's private conversation: Desdemona and Emilia towards the end of Act 3.
- The setting of the scene where the conversation takes place in the bedroom.
- The setting throughout the play: 1- Streets of Venice(public), Duke's Palace(formal), Bedroom (Act 4, scene 3).

Act 4, Scene 1:

- They talk about Desdemona's cheating.
- Iago uses Graphic language, such as 'kiss', 'naked'...
- The repetitions of the word 'lie':
 - 1- to tell a lie
 - 2-lie with someone (sleep with them).
- >epileptic fit: lose consciousness.
- a break in his speech: chaos in mind.
- Mental-Physical break-up: disintegration.

>Iago asks Othello to eavesdrop on Cassio, and Iago. They both talk about Bianca but he thinks they are talking about Desdemona.
> He wants to strangle her as a way of silencing her.

Monday, April 18th, 2022

Othello's Transformation:

- Verbal abuse: he calls Desdemona a 'whore'= Strumpet, in their bedroom.
- Physical abuse: he slaps Desdemona in public, in front of others and Lodovico.

Act 4, Scene 3: Othello orders Desdemona to go to the bedroom.

-Line 270: Othello calls her a 'Devil' in public.

>using the word 'crocodile' as a way of sexism and misogyny towards Desdemona.

>The bedroom as an Important setting:

-Private - Intimacy: Marriage- enclosure- claustrophobic.

>Both Desdemona and Emilia are engaged in a private conversation that tells us something about them. They are also allied against Iago and Othello.

- maid: Barbary> Barbary horse, Othello's.
- Willow: it signifies sadness.
- 'treasures' into foreign laps' neglect affection for other women who are strange.
- 'Strike us' , they are physically abusive.
- Galls: pride, courage.
- >Frailty: Shakespeare uses this word to describe women, but here Emilia uses it in their conversation.
- >she ends her speech with a couplet.

Wednesday, April 20th, 2022

Act 5: Othello is holding a torch, but he turns it off as a way of understanding he is going to kill Desdemona in her Bedroom.

Act1: Street, Darkness(mystery), Iago holding a torch(light)= information.

- >Euphemism: he uses the pronoun 'it' to describe the betrayal of his wife, but he doesn't mention it because it hurts him.
- >he refers to the stars as 'chaste' from Chastity. Which means purity.
- > He says that the skin of Desdemona is like snow, and also it is like a monumental alabaster which is white, and smooth.
- he is addressing the candle-light, saying that a light can be turned on again, but once he kills Desdemona, he cannot make her live again.
- if he kills her, he can't relume or restore her again.
- > he compares killing Desdemona to plucking out roses.
- >he kills her because he believes he will achieve justice.
- >Iago decides on the method of killing Desdemona.
- >he is overwhelmed by emotions.
- >She doesn't accuse Othello of killing her, she says, "Nobody, I, Myself".
- > Smothering is a way of Silencing Desdemona before he kills her.
- >he is being eloquent in his speech.

Monday, May 16th, 2022

“Hamlet”

The appearance of the supernatural > The Ghost.

Shakespeare wants to set the mood of the play by indicating the Ghost in the dark, during midnight, and there is no clear vision. Also, the weather is cold, and that signifies fear.

- They describe the ghost by mentioning it to be an ‘old man’, and he also resembles king Hamlet, he also wear the armor, and refuses to speak to the soldiers and Horatio. In addition to him speaking to Hamlet for the first time in Scene 5.
- It is also a bad omen.
- The Ghost tells a message (story of his murder by Claudius) he asks him to seek revenge, and take care of his mother.
- The rest of the play depends on the message that the ghost gives.

In Scene 2, Claudius is represented to be the present king and Hamlet’s uncle. The setting takes place the Elsinore Palace. Where he conducts an official meeting, he also talks about Hamlet’s sadness.

- He gives permission to Laertes. (Polonius who is the king’s advisor, he has 2 childs. Laertes is a scholar in France, and Ophelia)

>Hamlet gives 7 soliloquies, since it mostly addresses Hamlet’s state of mind.

The first soliloquy deals with the sudden death of father, and the remarriage of his mother. And these things Trouble Hamlet.

Page 29, Line 133:

Questions:

-He uses punctuation: he uses lots of commas and semicolons, exclamation marks, and question marks.

>This reflects Hamlet’s inner thoughts, and his continuous speech. He also questions the nature of his surroundings, as a type of interrogation.

1-4 Lines: “sullied flesh” he is talking about his life. “Dew” water drops in the morning. He wishes his own body would vanish just like his meat would turn into water.

“Everlasting: God, “Canon”: Law. “Self-Slaughter: Suicide.

-He compares the world to “unweeded garden” and that means that it is a corrupt world, and this garden is being controlled by bad people.

Everything that is “rank” (low level, possess →(control the world).

-Allusions: Line 144: “So excellent a king” his father, “this” → is a reference to his uncle Claudius. “Hyperion to a satyr” an allusion to greek mythology which is a superhuman that is the God of the sun Hyperion.

“Satyr” is an ugly creature who is half man, half goat. And he is associated with sexual desire, and he is lustful.

Another Allusion> Starts in Line 151:

“Niobe” she is a greek woman who mourned the loss of her 9 children, she cried until her tears were turned into rocks, which is also a greek mythology reference.

-”wants” lacks reason.

“Than I to Hercules” Greek mythology reference: he is comparing how Claudius is not like Hamlet’s father in the sense where Hamlet himself is not like Hercules in the Physical strength.

>he talks about the speed of the remarriage of his mother within a month.

“Incestuous sheets” → Incest is the marriage of relatives. It is also considered a sin in Christianity.

Wednesday, May 18th, 2022

- When the Ghost speaks, he becomes present as a character.
- “Leave her to Heaven” Line 93- page 61 : this means she will be left in her conscience.
- Remember him as a Ghost. Line 99, Page 61.
- Hamlet’s Second Soliloquy, Page 99: he says he he will wipe away everything from his mind and only keep
- the Ghost’s commandments- Which is revenge at first.
 - >he describes his mother by using the word ‘pernicious’ to show how corrupt his mother is.
 - > he describes his uncle by using the word “ villain- smiling villain” appearance is not as his reality, he is two-faced, corrupt and a hypocrite.
- “Antic disposition” 67- Line 190
 - >He will put on an act of madness so that he will discover the truth.
 - >Act 2:
 - Hamlet’s friends Rozencrantz, Guildenstern are employed by Claudius and Gertrude to spy on him.

>Scene 2 of Act 2 is important:

Ophelia and Hamlet's relationship, when Ophelia thinks something is wrong with him, they ended up breaking up since her father Polonius commanded her to do so.

Polonius concludes that Hamlet's madness is because Ophelia had rejected him.

>Polonius according to Hamlet is a "fishmonger". It means that someone is selling women. He is also degrading Polonius as a father.

>Queen says: "More matter with less art" and that implies that he talks a lot but he doesn't say anything beneficial.

> Hamlet asks a group of players to act "The Murder of Gonzago" it imitates and mirrors the actual murder of his father.

>Hamlet's 3rd Soliloquy: he mentions that he will " have these players play something like the murder of my father...." Line 623 page 119.

>Hamlet's play " The Murder of Gonzago", and the audience is Claudius, Gertrude, Ophelia, Hamlet.

Play-within- a play technique.

Monday, May 23rd, 2022

Act "3": the performance- play within a play→ "The Murder of Gonzago" which mimics the actual murder.

Claudius Reaction of the play: -Furious, He leaves, and he prays to God > Claudius's First Soliloquy.

>Hamlet Kills Polonius by accident thinking he was the king Claudius.

> the Act also has Hamlet's famous soliloquy, "to be or not to be".

>Claudius's confession of the murder of the previous king, Hamlet's father.

> He doesn't take the opportunity to kill Claudius.

Act 3 plot development:

>Climax: the scene where Claudius was praying, however, doesn't take the opportunity to kill him.

>Ophelia is mad because Polonius is killed.

>Hamlet's Famous Soliloquy Page 127:

- "To be or not to be" → to live or not to live or to die.

“Sling and arrows of outrageous fortune” → he is comparing life in general to a game of Archery, because it causes pain and suffering.

-“Sea of troubles” a reference to much trouble.

He is talking about two choices:

1- bear the pain and the sufferings of life.

2- oppose the pains and sufferings to end it.

>he compares death to eternal sleep. “end the heartache” end the pain he’s going through.

“Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished” → it is (death) considering it to be something to wish for.

>“Mortal coil” he is referring to the human body.

>“Quietus” making himself quiet as in death.

>“whips and scorns of time” time is like a person who whips us and makes us suffer → personification.

>“Dread” : Fear.

>“Something After Death” → is a reference to “undiscovered country” nobody has come back from death.

> “Thus, conscience does make cowards of us all” we do not have the enough courage to do something in life, in Hamlet’s case, it is taking revenge.

>Hamlet is questioning life, and death.

-He is also questioning life -questioning taking action and procrastinating.

-We can tell that Hamlet is melancholic, pessimistic, and a philosopher. Since he is educated, it is hard for him to take revenge.

> Hamlet asks Ophelia to go to a nunnery. He is being sarcastic of her. And by going to a nunnery she won’t commit any sins.

-Claudius’s soliloquy page 165:

“Offense is rank” he is saying he feels guilty, and a lowlife.

-“Eldest curse” an Allusion to the story of Cain and Abel.

Wednesday, May 25h, 2022

-in Hamlet's first soliloquy: Hamlet doesn't know about the murder of his father, he is depressed of his father's death, and the quick marriage of his mothers. He describes the world to be corrupt "unweeded garden"

-Hamlet's second soliloquy: he knows about the murder of his father, and he thinks of taking revenge by killing Claudius. He has promises- remembrance of the ghost's commands.

-Hamlet's third soliloquy: concepts, sufferings in life, life after death.

>Claudius's soliloquy:

We know about him from the ghost.

His reaction to the play-within the play, that Hamlet calls the play "Mouse Trap".

Line 40, page 165:

He cannot be forgiven because he still possesses his position as king, and his marriage to the queen, and his own ambition.

The action of his brother's murder makes him low, his offense is cursed by God → "O, my offense is rank"

-he also cannot be forgives since he has his brother's blood on his hands.

- "rain" , "white as snow" is a metaphor to him wishing his sins to be purified.

Monday, May 30th, 2022

Hamlet Act 4:

-Falling Action> Gertrude tells Claudius- that Hamlet killed Polonius.

-and that Hamlet had gone mad.

-Claudius plans to get rid of Hamlet by sending him to England.

-The two spies send a letter to the king.

-Fortinbras is Prince of Norway.

-Laertes- comes back for Polonius's death= Hamlet: King's death.

-The prince of Norway's father was killed by Hamlet's father.

-Fortinbras reappears by leaving Denmark to attack Poland, he is on his way with a big army.

-Ophelia goes mad because of her father's death, and she sings songs considering death, and love. She eventually dies by throwing herself in the ocean → Drowning.

-Hamlet's Soliloquy page 203:

"All occasions": reasons. His revenge is "dull", and everything is happening around him prevents him from taking action.

"If his chief good and market of his time be but to sleep and feed?" what is man? What is existence? Sleeping+ eating.

-He answers the question by saying he is "A beast, no more"

> he is basically saying that life is 1/3 wisdom while the other 3 parts is causing him to be a coward.

>"delicate and tender prince" he is comparing himself to Fortinbras.

>"when's honor at the stake" he says that Fortinbras is fighting for his honor.

>he says his father was killed, mother stained: which means he isn't doing anything about it. "All sleep"

Wednesday, 1st of June 2022

Act 5: - Ophelia's Burial.

>Scene 1→grave diggers. The significance of the skull: flesh, beauty, youth. Hamlet is bringing reference to death, by discussing who the skull belongs to. He says the skull belongs to "Yorick", who his lips no longer show anymore, since he is referring to how it changes humans after death.

-it also indicates that Hamlet is closer to death.

>Scene 2: Hamlet is talking to Horatio and explaining to him how he got away from the attempt of king Claudius to kill him.

He signs the letter by using a ring from his Father.

-Laertes injures Hamlet, and Gertrude drinks the poison instead of Laertes and dies. Laertes is killed by Hamlet. Hamlet ends up killing Claudius by the poisoned sword.

-Fortinbras and Horatio are the only ones who are still alive.

>Discussion Questions:

- One of the most debated issues is the issue of Hamlet's madness, is it feigned or is it real?
- The Question of Revenge.
- Familial relationships.
- Friendships.
- Appearance vs reality.
- Women: Ophelia and Gertrude.
- Kingship.
- The technique of the play-within- a play.
- The Motif of Poison.

>Madness vs Reality: Revenge, Ghost, Sudden death of his father, Hasty marriage of his mother.

>feigned-madness: he tells his friend that he will act mad. "Antic desposition". Treatment of Ophelia.

Polonius- in the fishmonger scene.

Escapes-execution by changing letters.

Soliloquies- interrogative.

>he questions the existence of the Ghost, is it an evil spirit, or whether it is a good spirit driving him to do the right thing?

>the classical notions of tragedy: he is a tragic hero, and his tragic flaw is his inability to act(inaction). He also asks questions that he cannot answer. Is he a cowardice?

Wednesday, June 8th, 2022

"Taming of the Shrew"- Comedy

1- in a Shakespearean comedy, there is some kind of confusion and chaos, by disguise and dramatic irony.

2- it starts with chaos but it usually ends with harmony and order → for example, a manner of marriage.

3- The language→ puns, irony.

We have many themes such as:

-marriage, social customs, traditions, patriarchal societies.

>"Taming": as in taming animals. Such as, animal training, horses, dogs, cats, lions, hawk.

>"Shrew": small animal-mouse.

>"Shrew": a woman that is easily angered.

-The play takes place in Padua.

Characters: we have the father who is named Baptista Minola, and he has two daughters Bianca(3 suitors), and Katherine(shrew).

-Petruccio joins into the 3 suitors group, he came to Padua to get married so he agrees to take the challenge.

>the whole play uses the play-within a play technique.

-Induction: we have a man who is called Christopher sly, he is one of the commoners, he is drunk so gets kicked out of the Inn.

-the play is performed as an entertainment for sly when he wakes up.

-Induction→ the play within- a play "taming of the shrew".

The First suitor is called Gremio, he is an old man who is interested in marrying Bianca.

→ Lucentio is the second suitor, he came to pursue his education, we also have the servant Tranio.

→ Hortensio.

-The theme of favoritism, since the father favors Bianca over Katherine.

Monday, June 13th,2022

"Taming of the Shrew"

3 storylines:

1-Chriostopher Sly in the Induction>it takes place in England.

2-Wooing/attracting Bianca and her suitors> it takes place in Padua in Italy.

3-Katherine and Petruccio.

-**Italy** is common in Shakespeare's plays because they mostly address Romance.

-The play is mainly about Deception:

Deception in the matter of Disguise.

-The play is also about marriage-customs-traditions.

-It is also about Love, specifically love at first sight.

- Infatuation: falling completely in love with someone.
- The constant struggle of the battle of sexes(Genders).

Act 1:

The Action starts with Lucentio, and he came to Padua to study Arts. He is originally from Pisa. He says that his father is a wealthy merchant. He also says he will be entertained and achieve happiness in Padua.

>Why does the Act start with Lucentio?

It is because he meets the qualifications of a suitor, considering him to be a suitable husband.

-Baptista: he seems to be biased, and he will not get Bianca married until Katherine get married first.

- Katherine uses the word “mates” referring to the suitors. As in animal marriages.

-Petruccio appears with Grumio in Act 1 Scene 2:
(The Master-Servant relationship).

>Petruccio’s Soliloquy-Page 87:

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- 2 different speeches:
- Act 4 Scene 1: Petruccio- taming process.
- Act 5 Scene 2: Katherine’s monologue.

-They used to use instruments to punish Shrewish women using Scold’s Bridle, also “ducking stool”.

-In Act 1 and 2, Petruccio’s agreement with Baptista.

-In Act 3 they get married quickly.

>Petruccio’s soliloquy that discusses his look on the taming process
Page 151:

“This is a way to kill a wife with kindness” this is his Motto to Taming.
By controlling her “reign”.

“Stoop”: will she become obedient?

“Her keeper’s call”> a reference to going back to the one who trains her,
saying he will observe her behaviour.

-he will deny her food.

-he will also deny her sleep.

-”reverend” he will do that in a kind manner.

-in Act 5: Lucentio and Bianca get married, and there is a festivity-marriage- all the Characters are present including Baptista, Katherine and Petruchio, and Hortensio who gets married to a widow, and Gremio, Biondello.

-Katherine’s Famous Monologue page 219:

>She begins to reprimand women with angry disposition.

>She tell those women that their husbands are lords, “thy life”, “thy keeper”, “thy head” it is like she doesn’t have a mind of her own.

>Husband is the “prince”, she is his “subject”.

What is Shakespeare’s purpose of Kate’s Monologue?

