

Imaginative Ways to Approach the Text

AS YOU LIKE IT – Phoebe’s Duologue with Silvius (Act III, scene 6)

Overview	
1. The students will examine Phoebe's monologue, using the punctuation as a tool to help decode the meaning of the text.	2. The students will then investigate how Shakespeare shapes a character by delving into the character's thought process.

Grade Level	Subject Area	Curriculum Expectations and Learning Outcome			Time Needed	Space	Materials
7-12	English, Drama	Develop and explain interpretations of the Shakespearean text, using evidence from the text and visual cues to support their interpretations ;	Use appropriate decoding strategies to understand unfamiliar words/ideas and stage the scene;	Analyse the text, motivation, speech, and actions of characters to build roles.	1-2 class Periods	Desks in groups, then open spaces for exploring the text	Attached handouts of Activities

AS YOU LIKE IT

Phoebe's Duologue with Silvius - Act III, scene 6

ACTIVITY 1

Working in groups of three, one person will play Silvius standing in the middle of two Phoebes. The Phoebes will read the monologue below as a duologue.

Every time you get to a punctuation (i.e. comma, colon, semi-colon, full stop, exclamation mark or question mark) switch reader.

Question: What did you discover about Phoebe's monologue?

Question: Why is Phoebe constantly alternating from one thought to another?

Question: Is Phoebe indecisive?

Question: Can you spot where Shakespeare uses the following language techniques: antithesis (oppositions), monosyllables (single-sound words), lists and repetition?

ACTIVITY 2

Read the duologue again and mark where you think Phoebe has a change of thought, a realization, a decision or an action.

Write a title for every section that sums up what it is about.

Question: Examine each section, what do you notice about how Phoebe tries to make sense of her feelings towards Rosalind who is in disguise as Ganymede?

Question: What words and images does Phoebe use to describe Ganymede?

Question: Why does Silvius go along with this?

Question: What gestures would you have Phoebe make as she is saying all these things?

Act III, scene 6 (excerpt)

PHOEBE

Know'st thou the youth that spoke to me erewhile?

just now

SILVIUS

Not very well, but I have met him oft,
And he hath bought the cottage and the bounds
That the old carlot once was master of.

*pastures/land
peasant, countryman/churl*

PHOEBE

Think not I love him, though I ask for him:

'Tis but a peevish boy, yet he talks well.

irritating, foolish, silly

But what care I for words? Yet words do well

When he that speaks them pleases those that hear.

It is a pretty youth, not very pretty.

But sure he's proud, and yet his pride becomes him;

He'll make a proper man. The best thing in him

Is his complexion. And faster than his tongue

face/ appearance

Did make offence, his eye did heal it up.

He is not very tall, yet for his years he's tall.

His leg is but so-so, and yet 'tis well.

There was a pretty redness in his lip,

A little riper and more lusty red

luxuriant/lively

Than that mixed in his cheek. 'Twas just the difference

Between the constant¹ red and mingled damask². *1.unchanging 2.pink or light red*

There be some women, Silvius, had they marked him

In parcels¹ as I did, would have gone near

1. parts, items

To fall² in love with him. But, for my part,

2. to be on the verge of falling

I love him not nor hate him not. And yet

Have more cause to hate him than to love him:

For what had he to do to chide at me?

cause had he

He said mine eyes were black, and my hair black, *opposite of 'fair' thought to be beautiful*

And, now I am remembered, scorned at me.

remember

I marvel why I answered not again.

did not retort/talk back

But that's all one: omittance is no quittance.

not replying doesn't mean I pardon him

I'll write to him a very taunting letter,

And thou shalt bear it. Wilt thou, Silvius?

SILVIUS

Phoebe, with all my heart.

PHOEBE

I'll write it straight;

immediately

The matter's in my head and in my heart.

contents are

I will be bitter with him and passing short.

very sharp/excessively

Go with me, Silvius.