

## ***The Merry Wives of Windsor: Scene Improv!***

*Divide the class into four groups. Then cut up the tableaux and lines and distribute to the students.*

### **Scene # 1**

**Mistress Page and Mistress Ford discover that they have received identical love letters (delivered by Nym and Pistol) from Sir John Falstaff.**

### Scene # 1

- a. Falstaff: *(to Nym)* Go, bear thou this letter to Mistress Page; *(to Pistol)* and thou this to Mistress Ford.

### Scene # 1

- b. Mistress Ford: *(to Mistress Page)* Here, read, read. Did you ever hear the like?

### Scene # 1

- c. Mistress Page: *(to Mistress Ford)* Letter for letter, but that the name of Page and Ford differs.

### **Scene # 2**

**Pistol tells Master Ford that Falstaff is wooing his wife. Ford is concerned. Meanwhile, Nym tells Master Page that Falstaff is wooing *his* wife. Page is not worried.**

### Scene # 2

- a. Pistol: *(to Ford)* Sir John affects thy wife.

### Scene # 2

- b. Ford: I will seek out Falstaff.

### Scene # 2

- c. Nym: *(to Page)* Falstaff loves your wife.

### Scene # 2

- d. Page: I never heard such a drawling, affecting rogue.

### **Scene # 3**

**Master Ford, disguised as "Master Brook," asks Falstaff to seduce Mistress Ford. He plans to catch them in the act.**

Scene # 3 a. Ford: <i>(to Falstaff)</i> Use your art of wooing, win her to consent to you.
Scene # 3 b. Falstaff: <i>(to Ford)</i> I shall be with her, I may tell you, by her own appointment.
Scene # 3 c. Ford: <i>to audience)</i> I will prevent this, detect my wife, be revenged on Falstaff.
<b>Scene # 4</b> <b>Mistresses Ford and Page hide Falstaff in a laundry basket full of smelly clothes to prevent Ford from finding him in his house.</b>
Scene # 4 a. Mistress Ford: <i>(to Mistress Page)</i> What shall I do?
Scene # 4 b. Mistress Page: Look, here is a basket.
Scene # 4 c. Falstaff: I'll in, I'll in!
<b>Scene # 5</b> <b>Master Ford beats an old woman, the "witch of Brentford," whom he has found in his house. The "woman" is really Falstaff, wearing a dress to avoid capture. Mistress Page is shocked and Mistress Ford wonders if Falstaff has had sufficient punishment.</b>
Scene # 5 a. Ford: <i>(to Falstaff, disguised as a woman)</i> Out of my door, you witch, you rag, you baggage, you polecat, you runnion!
Scene # 5 b. Mistress Page: <i>(to Ford)</i> I think you have killed the poor woman.
Scene # 5 c. Mistress Ford: Nay by the mass, that he did not: he beat him most unpitifully, methought.

**Scene # 6**

**Mistresses Ford and Page show Falstaff's love letters to their husbands. Ford apologizes for his suspicion.**

Scene # 6

- a. Mistress Ford: *(to Mistress Page)* Shall we tell our husbands how we have served him?

Scene # 6

- b. Mistress Page: *(to Mistress Ford)* Yes, by all means.

Scene # 6

- c. Ford: *(to Mistress Ford after reading the letters)* Pardon me wife.

**Scene # 7**

**Falstaff has gone to the woods to meet Mistresses Ford and Page again, but instead he finds "fairies" (children in disguise) who pinch him and burn him with candles.**

Scene # 7

- a. Queen of the Fairies: *(to the Fairies)*  
About him, fairies, sing a scornful rhyme,  
And, as you trip, still pinch him to your time.

Scene # 7

- b. Fairies:  
Pinch him, and burn him, and turn him about,  
Till candles and starlight and moonshine be out.

Scene # 7

- c. Falstaff: O, O, O!

**Scene # 8**

**Dr. Caius (a French doctor and suitor to the Page's daughter, Anne) holds hands with a "fairy" in green, thinking it is Anne Page who has agreed to marry him in secret. Slender (another suitor to Anne Page) holds a "fairy" in white for the same reason. Meanwhile, the real Anne marries Fenton, her true love. The Pages welcome Fenton as a son-in-law and Falstaff and all are invited to a party being held by the Pages.**

Scene # 8

a. Dr. Caius: (*shocked*) It is not Anne Page. By gar, I am cozened.

Scene # 8

b. Slender: (*shocked*) And yet it was not Anne, but a postmaster's boy.

Scene # 8

c. Ford: Who hath got the right Anne?

Scene # 8

d. Anne: (*holding Fenton's hand, turns to her parents*)  
Pardon, good father. Good mother, pardon.

Scene # 8

e. Fenton: (*holding Anne's hand, turns to Anne's parents*)  
The truth is, she and I, long since contracted,  
Are now so sure that nothing can dissolve us.

Scene # 8

f. Page: (*to Fenton*) Fenton, heaven give thee joy!

Scene # 8

g. Mistress Page:  
Good husband, let us every one go home,  
And laugh this sport o'er by a country fire,  
Sir John and all.