

QUICK CARD: *THE TAMING OF THE SHREW*



Reference	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> , by William Shakespeare. ISBN: 978-0743477574
Plot	The play begins with a story frame in which a drunk, Christopher Sly, is deceived into believing he is a nobleman and set to watch a play. The play, of course, is <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> . In this, a nobleman, Petruchio, is induced to marry Katherina, who is deemed a shrew because of her sharp tongue and caustic wit. Through his manipulations, she is “tamed.” Meanwhile, her fair-faced sister, Bianca, manipulates many suitors.
Setting	Padua, Italy Renaissance Period
Characters	<p>Katherina, (protagonist) eldest daughter of Baptista Minola and the town shrew</p> <p>Bianca, younger daughter of Baptista Minola, considered fair and mild</p> <p>Baptista Minola, father of Bianca and Katherina</p> <p>Gremio, elderly suitor of Bianca</p> <p>Hortensio, suitor of Bianca, who poses as her music tutor to be near her</p> <p>Petruchio, Hortensio’s friend, who wishes to marry for money. He is as brash as Katherina and just as determined.</p> <p>Grumio, Petruchio’s fool servant.</p> <p>Lucentio, a wealthy student from Verona, new in Padua, and a suitor of Bianca</p> <p>Tranio, Lucentio’s servant, who changes identities with his master to allow Lucentio time to woo Bianca.</p> <p>Biondello, Lucentio’s servant</p> <p>Old Pedant (schoolmaster), impersonates Lucentio’s father, Vincentio.</p>
Conflict	Katherina wants to be loved, accepted, and respected. Men are fools, in her opinion, “tamed” by the coyness of mindless girls. She wishes to be

	<p>valued for her genuine self and refuses to be coy.</p> <p>Obstacles: Bianca’s false sweetness - Man vs. Man Baptista Minola’s indifference and selfishness – Man vs. Man The shallowness of men and society - Man vs. Society Kate’s own will, fury, and fears - Man vs. Self</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Theme</p>	<p>Appearances aren’t what they seem. Beware of false faces. The importance of self-mastery. A meditation on the true nature of shrews and their fair counterparts. A meditation on marriage, submission, mastery, and domestic harmony. Discussion of the nature of power and its source between the sexes Social Constructs and Expectations The Model Wife</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Literary Devices</p>	<p>Symbolism: Disguise - Petruchio’s outrageous outfits and unconventional behavior underscore his flouting of societal convention.</p> <p>Motif - Deception</p> <p>Puns and Double Entendres – for example: PETRUCHIO: Who knows not where a wasp does wear his sting? In his tail. KATHARINA: In his tongue. PETRUCHIO: Whose tongue? KATHARINA: Yours, if you talk of tails: and so farewell. PETRUCHIO: What, with my tongue in your tail? nay, come again, Good Kate; I am a gentleman.</p> <p>Also: “Women are made to bear and so are you” (2.1.200). Double meaning of the word bear: to support weight or to give birth to children</p> <p>Allusions: references to other works of literature, art, or history. For ex.: Lucentio and Gremio both allude to the works of Ovid. Tranio refers to the works of Aristotle, as well. Lucentio compares his love for Tranio to that between Anna and Dido (1.1.153-154). Petruchio refers to Chaucer’s Wife of Bath’s Tale, Xantippe, Socrates’s shrewish wife and to the Sibyl of Greek lore (1.2.69-71).</p> <p>Metaphors: Kate is a “Wild-Kate” or Wildcat Padua is a “nursery of arts” and a “pleasant garden” (1.1.2-4).</p> <p>Petruchio also refers to her as a falcon, that must not eat until she submits: “My falcon now is sharp and passing empty; And till she stoop she must not be full gorged.” (4.1.189-190)</p> <p>Blank verse, or unrhymed iambic pentameter – the meter in which</p>

	<p>Shakespeare composes all his plays. 5 iambic (U/) feet per line.</p> <p>Story Frame</p>
--	--