


The Taming of the Shrew, William Shakespeare

(a)ii The double opening discussion statements

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The Taming of the Shrew: (a)ii Double opening discussion statements

Statement	Response
a) The induction scenes ensure we don't take the events of the plot too seriously - Shakespeare invites us to sit with a drunk and watch the story as an amusing diversion.	
b) Shakespeare is a master of the 'play-within-a-play' and cleverly intertwines themes and creates links and contrasts.	
c) The framing device is only half complete - the end is missing, perhaps lost.	
d) The plot of the play quickly overwhelms the induction scene - the audience forget all about Sly so there is no need to return to him.	
e) Directors are right to skip the induction scenes - they are an absurd and unnecessary distraction from the story.	
f) The induction scenes are an important introduction to the themes of the play - ideas such as social order and disguise are planted in the minds of the members of the audience, changing the way they view the main plot.	
g) The contrast between the light-hearted japes of the induction scenes, and the learned conversations of Act One, Scene One, means that the main plot initially seems dull by comparison.	
h) The more interesting and developed characters and plot set up of Act One, Scene One is a relief from the silliness of the induction scenes.	
i)	
j)	