The Taming of the Shrew, by William Shakespeare

Investigate Acts 2 and 3

Refers to links on www.crossref-it.info

Act 2 scene 1

- In this scene Baptista and the other men are negotiating the terms of marriage with regard to both Katherina and Bianca. What does this say about love, money, power and relationships?
- Analyse Petruchio's method of wooing Katherina. What methods of persuasion has he used to get her attention in terms of:
 - ➤ What he says?
 - What he does?
 - Which internal stage directions indicate the latter?
- The exchange between Petruchio and Katherina once alone has sometimes been called a battle of wits. Look at their use of language and find examples of:
 - Puns
 - Word play
 - Repetition
 - Hyperbole
 - Alliteration and assonance.
 - Who would you say had the upper hand in the exchange?

Act 3 scene 1

- Shakespeare uses a number of asides to provide drama and develop character in this scene.
 - What do you learn about their characters from Hortensio's and Lucentio's asides?
 - How do these asides contribute to the drama of this scene?
- Hortensio is suspicious of Bianca and Lucentio, becoming increasingly concerned as he spies on them. What does this, and his final comments, tell you about his expectations of women and marriage?

Act 3 scene 2

- The disguises taken on by the characters involve lies and deception at many levels
 - Lucentio and Hortensio (as tutors in Act 2 Scene 1, Act 3 Scene 1)
 - Tranio (as Lucentio)
 - Petruchio (as a mad-man)
 - How do these disguises contribute to your understanding of each character's personality and motivation?
- Clothing, especially Petruchio's eccentric outfit, is described in great detail in this play. How does clothing relate to identity and social status?
- The 'mad marriage' is a source of much comedy to the guests, but not to Katherina or her family
 - What is Petruchio's intention?
 - How successful do you think he has been by the end of the scene?
 - How does this marriage develop the theme of order and disorder?