

 Refers to links on www.crossref-it.info

Induction scene 1

- ❖ Read the dramatic opening of this scene a few times (up to line 31 when the Lord discovers Christopher Sly) and think about how it might be staged in a performance.
 - How would the stage be set and what props might be used?
 - What advice would you give to the actors playing Christopher Sly and the Hostess about the way they are to speak, move and interact on stage?
 - Focus on the role of the Lord throughout this scene. What kind of man does he seem to be?
 - Do you agree with his plan to convince Christopher Sly that he is actually a lord?
 - Are the ideas being applied to Sly relevant to Petruchio and Katherina?
- ❖ The arrival of the actors signals the movement into the world of imagination and playing. Why might Shakespeare have chosen to introduce the main plot in this way?
 - What themes are being introduced?
- ❖ 'What is't your honour .. known her love?' The Page's 'script' exemplifies the attitude of a socially conventional wife, yet it is clear that he will only be acting a part. What might Shakespeare be saying here?

Induction scene 2

- ❖ Think about the role of the servants in elaborating the plan to convince Sly that he is a rich lord. What strategies do they use to convince him?
 - Which seem most effective?
- ❖ The Lord joins in with the deception and seems to be acting like another servant. What elements of this scene contribute to the theme of identity and disguise that is developing?
- ❖ Analyse the language used by the Lord's servants as they speak to Sly and to the language Sly uses in return
 - What difference do you see in Sly's language towards the end of the scene?
 - How do you explain the changes you notice?

Act 1 scene 1

- ❖ Baptista's two daughters squabble in public and it seems that Katherina is the aggressor and Bianca is the victim. What other clues do you find about:
 - Their characters?
 - Their relationship to each other?
 - Their relationship to their father?
- ❖ Baptista and Bianca leave together and Katherina leaves by herself. How would you direct actors to achieve this?
 - What might Katherina do to make Gremio say, 'You may go to the devil's dam!'?
- ❖ Makes notes on Shakespeare's characterisation of Katherina in this scene:
 - How is Katherina presented on stage?
 - How is she described by other characters?
 - How do you think the above, as well as her experience of living as a woman in Padua, have shaped her personality?
- ❖ Lucentio has fallen in love with Bianca. What words and phrases make him sound like a stereotypical lover?
 - How does his plan to study in Padua conflict with his desire for Bianca?

Act 1 scene 2

- ❖ Grumio provides much of the comedy from the opening exchanges with Petruchio to his humorous asides later.
 - Analyse what Grumio adds to this scene
 - What does he contribute to your understanding of the other characters?
- ❖ Tranio's entrance (dressed up as Lucentio) adds to the complicated plans to woo Bianca and get Katherina married off
 - How do these plans reflect on the theme of power and desire in relationships?