

Taming of the Shrew Act 4.3

Study Questions

Directions: Write your responses to the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Explain what is going on in the dialogue between Katherine and Grumio. What do you think Petruchio would think of this?
2. What tone of voice do you think Katherine should use when delivering line 49 on page 167?
3. Does Petruchio listen to Katherine? Explain.
4. What do you think Katherine is thinking and feeling during the scene with the Tailor and Haberdasher? (Page 169-177)
5. Read this scientific description of the shrew:
“Shrews are very active, solitary, surface-dwellers. They are very voracious and suffer from lack of food within a few hours...Shrews are preyed upon extensively by birds, but much less so by mammalian carnivores...Dispersion is maintained by aggressive behavior at all times, except during the brief period of oestrus and copulation. The fighting is stereotyped and involves great use of the voice, resulting in ‘squeaking matches’.” (Corbert, *The Terrestrial Mammals of Western Europe*)

Do you think Katherine is anything like this description? Think about the whole of this scene and earlier scenes.

A Shrew

