

Taming of the Shrew

Act 4.1 & 2

Directions: In small groups discuss the following questions about Act 4.1 & 4.2. One person should take notes on your discussion to turn in.

1. What are two examples of how Petruchio tries to tame Kate in scene 1? What is he doing? Why is he doing it this way? Is it funny? Why?
2. What are two instances where Petruchio shows anger in scene 1? Who is the anger directed at and why does he show it?
3. In scene 2, what decision does Hortensio make regarding his suit for Bianca? What does this show us about Hortensio's view of women and love? What does it say about his societies views of love and marriage?
4. Examine the way Petruchio treats the servants and the way he treats Kate in scene 1. Explain the difference between Petruchio's treatment of the servants and his treatment of his wife. What does this mean?
5. In scene 1, what does Petruchio mean when he says he knows how to "kill a wife with kindness"?
6. Prove that the reason Tranio gives the pedant for assuming Vincentio's identity is clever.