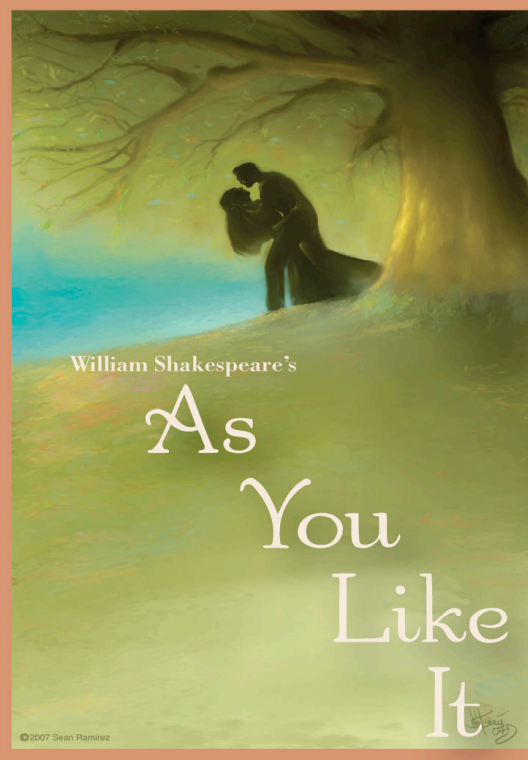




January 9 - February 23, 2008



## **AS YOU LIKE IT**

**By William Shakespeare**

***STUDY GUIDE***

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## ABOUT

# THE ORLANDO SHAKESPEARE THEATER:

We've got a new name and a new logo! We are proud to announce that, thanks to you, our patrons and donors, we have grown from an initial one-month "festival" 19 years ago, to a regional "theater" that features a year-round schedule of nine main-stage productions, three workshops, twelve staged readings, special events and fundraisers, a thriving partnership with UCF and robust educational programming with classes and seminars for pre-K through seniors. Also, thanks to you, three of this past season's productions broke all attendance records at the Lowndes Shakespeare Center.

We are a non-profit, professional theater that presents productions of Shakespeare, classic and contemporary plays, as well as the Darden Theater for Young Audiences Series. The Festival also cultivates new scripts and playwrights through the annual Harriet Lake Festival of New Plays and fosters innovative educational programs to serve the community.

**Scholarships:** Through the generosity of many Central Florida businesses and foundations, the Theater is able to visit a number of schools every year to present our unique workshops FOR FREE! To find out if you qualify for a scholarship please call the Education Director at 407-447-1700 x208.

## MEET THE CHARACTERS:

### *In Court:*

**Duke Fredrick**—Usurping Duke of his brother Duke Senior, father of Celia, and uncle to Rosalind.

**First and Second Lord**—Attending Duke Fredrick.

**Charles**—A wrestler at Duke Fredrick's court.

**Le Beau**—A courtier attending Duke Fredrick.

**Rosalind**—Daughter to Duke Senior, cousin to Celia, and niece to Duke Fredrick. In love with Orlando.

**Celia**—Daughter of Duke Fredrick, cousin to Rosalind, niece to Duke Senior.

**Orlando de Boys**—Youngest son of Sir Roland de Boys, brother to Oliver and Jaques de Boys. In love with Rosalind.

**Oliver de Boys**—Eldest son of Sir Roland de Boys, brother to Orlando and Jaques de Boys.

**Dennis**—Oliver's servant.

**Adam**—Oliver's servant, and friend to Orlando.

**Touchstone**—Duke Fredrick's court jester.

***In the Forest of Arden:***

**Duke Senior**—Banished Duke, father to Rosalind, uncle to Celia, and brother to Duke Fredrick.

**First and Second Lord**—Attending the banished Duke.

**First and Second Page**—Attending the banished Duke.

**Jaques**—Lord attending the banished Duke. Melancholy, sardonic, and misanthropic courtier.

**Amiens**—Lord attending the banished Duke, and singing courtier.

**Ganymede**—Rosalind's name with disguised as a male shepherd in the forest.

**Aliena**—Celia's name when disguised as a shepherdess in the forest.

**Phebe**—A disdainful shepherdess.

**Silvius**—A young shepherd in love with Phebe.

**Corin**—A shepherd.

**Audrey**—A country wench.

**Willum**—A country youth in love with Audrey.

**Sir Oliver Martext**—A country priest.

**Jaques de Boys**—Second oldest son of Sir Roland de Boys, brother to Oliver and Orlando.

**Hymen**—The god of marriage.

## **PLOT SUMMARY:**

Upset with his older brother, Oliver, for withholding his inheritance, Orlando complains to Adam, his father's old servant, that he has been treated like a peasant. Oliver appears and harasses Orlando. Orlando grabs Oliver and refuses to let him go until Oliver reforms. Oliver agrees but begins plotting to get rid of Orlando. Charles, the court wrestler, appears in order to persuade Oliver to talk Orlando out of wrestling him. Oliver reveals that he'd prefer Charles kill Orlando in the wrestling match.

Duke Fredrick's daughter, Celia, attempts to cheer up Rosalind, her cousin, who is depressed over the banishment of her father Duke Senior, Duke Fredrick's brother, who was previously in power. Le Beau enters and warns the ladies that if they stay where they are they will see a wrestling match. The ladies decide to stay and Rosalind instantly falls in love with Orlando while trying to dissuade him from wrestling Charles. Orlando wrestles anyway and wins! Duke Fredrick is pleased with Orlando's victory, but when he discovers that Orlando is the son of Sir Rowland de Boys, who was once great friends with Duke Senior, Duke Fredrick banishes Orlando to the Forest of Arden. Before leaving, Orlando asks Le Beau the identity of Rosalind because he has fallen in love with her.

Because Duke Fredrick is becoming paranoid of traitors, he banishes Rosalind. Celia offers to go into exile with Rosalind and they ask Touchstone, the court jester, to join them. Rosalind says she'll dress up as a male shepherd named Ganymede so as not to be taken advantage of in the forest. Celia agrees to dress up as a shepherdess named Aliena so as not to stick out in the forest. When they arrive in Arden they encounter Corin and Silvius, two shepherds. Silvius is wailing his unrequited love for a shepherdess named Phebe. They offer to buy a house, land and sheep for Corin if he'll tend them.

Orlando and Adam arrive in the forest, but Adam collapses from exhaustion. Orlando promises to find him some food. Stumbling upon Duke Senior's forest settlement, Orlando threatens Duke Senior and his men with his sword if they won't help him. The Duke freely offers Orlando food and help, and Orlando apologizes for being so violent. Jaques philosophizes about the stages of human life, and they all speak their praises for the woodland life as opposed to court life.

Meanwhile, back at court, Duke Fredrick banishes Oliver and disposes him of his title if he doesn't recapture Orlando.

Back in Arden: Orlando writes love poems to Rosalind and litters the forest with them. Rosalind, still dressed as a boy, discovers some of the poems and delights at being the object of the writer's affection. Celia arrives and announces that Orlando is the writer of the poems, and that he is on his way there. Orlando appears and Rosalind, disguised as Ganymede, interrogates him about his love for "Rosalind." Ganymede says she must cure Orlando of his love and that he must visit her and pretend to woo her as if she really was Rosalind. Orlando agrees.

Jaques observes Touchstone wooing Audrey and mocks them for trying to get married, believing that a jester of the court would never work with a country wench because their lifestyles are too different.

Orlando is late for his first "lesson" with Rosalind. Corin enters and offers to show Rosalind and Celia the sad sight of the shepherd, Silvius, trying to woo Phebe.

When Phebe rejects Silvius Rosalind steps in and chastises Phebe for thinking she is too good for Silvius. Phebe instantly falls in love with Rosalind, disguised as Ganymede. Orlando enters and woos Ganymede as Rosalind. Rosalind chastises him for being late, but asks Celia to perform a mock marriage ceremony. Orlando leaves, but promises to return. Rosalind confides in Celia that she is growing more and more in love with Orlando.

Orlando is late for his next meeting with Ganymede and Rosalind worries. Oliver enters carrying a bloody bandage used on Orlando. Oliver reveals that Orlando saved him from a lion in the forest, and that he has repented his evil ways. Rosalind faints at the bloody bandage and tells Oliver to report to Orlando that she pretended to faint when she saw the bandage.

Touchstone and Audrey meet up with Willum, another suitor of Audrey, and Touchstone outwits Willum and drives him away.

Orlando and Oliver, now reconciled, discuss Oliver's love for Celia, and their plans to get married the next day. Oliver says that he will yield up all of their father's inheritance and remain with Celia, whom he believes to be a shepherdess. Rosalind enters disguised as Ganymede and Orlando says he can no longer woo Ganymede instead of his true Rosalind. Rosalind says that she will produce the real Rosalind if he promises to marry her the next day at Oliver and Celia's wedding. Silvius and Phebe arrive and Ganymede says that if he marries any woman he'll marry Phebe, but if he doesn't marry a woman, Phebe must promise to marry Silvius. Phebe agrees.

The next day everyone is gathered together for the weddings. Rosalind reveals herself to truly be herself and Orlando agrees to marry her. Duke Senior approves. Celia agrees to marry Oliver, Phebe agrees to marry Silvius, and Audrey agrees to marry Touchstone. Jaques de Boys arrives and announces that Duke Fredrick has decided to give Duke Senior his courtly power back and retire to a monastery. The melancholy Jaques decides to join him. Everyone else begins the wedding ceremony with a dance.

*THE END*

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

Discuss the following topics in an essay or out loud with your class.

1. Have you ever been told that you weren't allowed to do something you really thought you should be able to do? How did that make you feel? Did you want to do it anyway just to spite the person who told you that you couldn't?
2. Rosalind feels like she has to dress up as a boy in order to not be taken advantage of, yet from time to time acts very much like a woman. Has there ever been a time when you felt like you couldn't get what you wanted because of your gender? How could you pursue what you want without pretending to be something you're not? Describe an instance when someone of the opposite sex got something you wanted. What could you have done that might have improved your chances of getting what you wanted?

3. In *As You Like It* there is a big difference between life at the court and life in the Forest of Arden. Have you ever thought things could be better somewhere else? Is there someplace you've been to where life is ideal? What was it about that place you liked better? If you haven't been to a place you liked better, how could you make where you are a better place? Brainstorm the perfect place. Describe what it would look like, what buildings, landscape, or climate it would be. Decide who you'd want there with you, or if you'd want to be alone. Would you be exceedingly rich, or live simply? There are no limitations to your answers. Get creative, have fun!
4. Rosalind is able to get Orlando to marry her, and Phebe to marry Silvius. How did she manage to get what she wanted and still make everyone else happy? Pretend you wanted to throw your best friend a surprise birthday party. How would you go about inviting other people without your best friend knowing. Plan how you would get them to the place of the party without them finding out you had an ulterior motive.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**



William Shakespeare, baptized April 26<sup>th</sup> 1564, and died April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1616, is considered to be perhaps the greatest playwright of the English language. Often referred to as “the Bard of Avon”, Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in England. His extant work includes 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and several other poems. Although his life began as a small town son of a glove-maker, Shakespeare left his wife and children in Stratford at an early age to pursue the life of an actor, writer, and part owner of the leading theatre troupe in London. His troupe, known as The Lord Chamberlain’s Men, was led by Richard Burbage and gained the respect of Queen Elizabeth I. After Elizabeth’s death King James I took the throne, and Shakespeare’s troupe won his favor and took the name The King’s Men. He retired back to Stratford in 1613. His plays might have never been published if not for the work of two actor’s from Shakespeare’s company who compiled his plays in 1623, after his death, in what is known as The First Folio. Still today Shakespeare’s plays are produced more than any

other playwright, and have been translated into every major living language and studied by people worldwide.

## **Middle School LEARNING PLAN:**

**This LEARNING PLAN is designed for grades 6-9.**

**Objectives:** To explore creatively what it's like to be someone else, and consider multiple perspectives. Also, to inspire students to make goals for personal betterment and pursue them.

**Standards and Benchmarks:** Participation in the Shakespeare Alive experience and attendance at a live performance of a Shakespearean play can aid student's development toward meeting the following Sunshine State Standards:

*Theatre Arts Standards TH.D.1.3 & 4*

*Theatre Arts Standards TH.E.1.3 & 4*

And

*Language Arts Standards LA 8.2.1.1-5*

*Language Arts Standards LA910.2.1.1-5*

*Language Arts Standards LA 1112.2.1.1-5*

**Materials Needed:** Paper and a writing utensil.

**Challenge:** Shakespeare's characters were very confident in themselves, but also very willing to try a new experience. When Shakespeare's characters lost everything they had, they made a new start as a new person. Sometimes it worked like Rosalind finding friends like Corin in the forest, and sometimes it didn't work like Orlando thinking he had to be violent in order to get food from Duke Senior. Encourage your students to consider how changes could help improve who they are, and some are just fun to think about.

### **Lesson Process:**

1. Ask your students, "Have you ever pretended you were someone else?" Have them brainstorm what they would be like if they could be anything they wanted. What would be different from now? Have your students pretend they live in a different place, have different clothes, talk differently, act differently, have the ideal job, even have a different name!
2. Next have them write a one page description of the new person they are thinking of. Start with, "My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I love \_\_\_\_\_ about myself." Encourage them to get creative, and take a chance!
3. When they are finished have them stand up and read the description as if they really were this other person. Have them use whatever vocal changes or physical changes they can to enhance their new personae.



4. Now, allow them to consider what aspects about the alternate person that they liked. What could they incorporate into their life today, and what was just fun to play around with?

## **High School LEARNING PLAN:**

**This LEARNING PLAN is designed for grades 9-12.**

**Objectives:** To explore the expression of emotion through creative writing. Also, to think about character, audience, and style of writing, while considering alternate perspectives on an issue.

**Standards and Benchmarks:** Participation in the Shakespeare Alive experience and attendance at a live performance of a Shakespearean play can aid student's development toward meeting the following Sunshine State Standards:

*Theatre Arts Standards TH.D.1.3 & 4*

*Theatre Arts Standards TH.E.1.3 & 4*

And

*Language Arts Standards LA 8.2.1.1-5*

*Language Arts Standards LA910.2.1.1-5*

*Language Arts Standards LA 1112.2.1.1-5*

**Materials Needed:** Paper and a writing utensil.

**Challenge:** Shakespeare wrote in a very structured style called iambic pentameter: ten syllables per line starting with an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable. After setting up the structure he altered it and changed it in many ways, sometimes rhyming, sometimes changing the order of stresses, and sometimes switching back and forth between prose (how people speak everyday) and poetic verse. Below is an example of one of Shakespeare's sonnets. Encourage your students to follow the structure or create a structure of their own. Get creative!

### **SONNET 18**

*By William Shakespeare*

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:  
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;  
And every fair from fair sometime declines,  
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;  
But thy eternal summer shall not fade  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest;  
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade,  
When in eternal lines to time thou growest:

So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,  
So long lives this and this gives life to thee.

In the sonnet above, the writer is in love with someone who will die, but by being remembered in this sonnet their love will last forever.

**Lesson Process:**

1. In *As You Like It* Silvius has a crush on Phebe, but Phebe doesn't love him back. Rosalind, disguised as Ganymede, sticks up for Silvius, but then Phebe loves Ganymede, but Ganymede loves Orlando, but Orlando loves Rosalind! Have your students pretend they are one of the characters in the play and write a love letter to one of the other characters in the play. In 12 to 14 lines describe how you, (as the character), feel about the other character. Describe how your love is treating you, and how that makes you feel. Finish with what your hopes are for the future. Get creative! You can even rhyme if you want to! Encourage your students to choose whatever structure they want, or make one up.
2. After they are finished, have them read their poem out loud to someone else in the class, or exchange with a partner and read theirs. There is no need to get embarrassed, you are writing from a specific fictional character's perspective about another fictional character. Assume a character voice or physicality while you read.
3. Now, have your students answer the poem they have just written. Have them assume the character to whom the first poem was written and write a reply love poem. The second character may accept or refuse the emotion offered in the first poem, even if it doesn't work out that way in the play. Encourage your students to let the first poem directly influence how that makes the second character feel, and let that influence the new poem.
4. When they are finished, have them read their poem out loud to someone else in the class, or exchange with a partner again. Remember to encourage reading the poems with new vocal or physical characteristics for the new character.
5. Afterwards you can open a discussion on how the first poem encouraged or dissuaded the character it was written to, and how that directly influenced the approach taken in the second poem. If students really get into it, you can encourage them to continue the poetic dialogue to create a short play. Hold a contest for the most creative! You could have the 'Next Shakespeare' sitting in your class . . .

**SAMPLE TESTS:**

Here are sample tests for classes that have read the play.

**Test #1 Short answer and True & False:**

Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Use quotes from the play to support your answer.

1. Why do Celia and Rosalind go to the forest? Why do they disguise themselves?
2. Who are Sir Roland de Boys' sons? What do they each want at the beginning of the play? Do they achieve their goals? Do their goals change? If yes, how? If not, why?
3. What does Oliver ask Charles to do and why? What does this tell us about his moral character?
4. How is Jaques described by the other characters in Act II scene I? What does this tell us about his personality? Contrast this with her mood at the beginning of Act II scene vii? To what does he attribute his change?
5. Why does Orlando agree to Rosalind's game of make believe? How would you feel in this situation?
6. Does this play have a happy ending? Who doesn't get what they want? Describe each character's perspective.

True or False

- 1) T or F Sir Oliver Martext tries to have his brother killed.
- 2) T or F Rosalind's father regains his title.
- 3) T or F Touchstone is a skilled wrestler.
- 4) T or F Phebe loves Corin.
- 5) T or F Rosalind's father was friends with Orlando's father.
- 6) T or F Orlando is Charles first fight of the day.
- 7) T or F Rosalind, dressed as a boy, tells Orlando to come on to her.
- 8) T or F Jaques becomes a monk.
- 9) T or F Corin says that manners are the same in the country as they are in court.
- 10) T or F Orlando fights a lion to save Oliver's life.

Bonus True or False: *As You Like It* has the more music than any other Shakespeare play.

**Test #2-Matching:**

## **Relationships**

### **A. Match the character groups with the relationship that best fits**

Jaques de Boys, Orlando, Oliver	pretend brother/sister
Corin/Silvius	uncle/niece
Rosalind/Celia	cousins
Duke Senior/Duke Frederick	fellow shepherds
Oliver/Dennis	no relationship what-so-ever!
Ganymede/Aliena	in love
Sir Oliver Martext/Amiens	brothers
Duke Senior/Celia	father/daughter
Rosalind/Orlando	brothers in opposition for courtly power
Duke Frederick/Celia	master/servant

### **B. Who marries who?**

#### **Match the lovers.**

Audrey	Silvius
Phebe	Touchstone
Celia	Orlando
Rosalind	Oliver