

Book Discussion Notes –Ten Tales from Shakespeare – Charles & Mary Lamb

1. YLBC – Opening and business
2. Narration – _____
3. Author Review – Shakespeare - _____
4. Discuss Toy, item from home that reminds you of one of the tales
5. Each person say “I like _____ because” (each character)
6. What was your favorite of the ten tales, and why?

Discussion:

Shakespeare’s stories are not wont in rich content. Each of the tales in some way are “enrichers of the fancy, strengtheners of virtue, a withdrawing from all selfish and mercenary thoughts, a lesson of all sweet and honorable thoughts and actions, to teach courtesy, benignity, generosity, humanity: for of examples, teaching these virtues, Shakespeare’s pages are full.” Lamb

THE TEMPEST

Summary:

Virtues:

Faults:

Characters:

Question	Answer
Protagonist(s) – Leading character, hero, or heroine of a drama or other literary work who traditionally, undergoes some sort of change (pushing something forward). –	
Adjectives to describe Protagonist(s)	
Antagonist - An antagonist is one that contents with or opposes another, adversary or opponent, the villain. The antagonist of a story is the character that provides an obstacle for the protagonist.	
Adjectives to describe Antagonist(s)	

Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Resolution

Question	Answer
Conflict (Man vs. Man, Man vs. Nature, Man vs. God, Man vs. Himself, Man vs. Society)	
Meaning of the Title	
Major Themes	
Minor Themes	

Other Characters (these are the main, there are others):

Who	Adjectives
Prospero	
Ariel	
Miranda	
Caliban	
Ferdinand	
Alonso	
Antonio	

Sebastian	
Gonzalo	

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Summary

Virtues:

Faults:

Characters:

Question	Answer
Protagonist(s)	
Adjectives to describe Protagonist(s)	
Antagonist	
Adjectives to describe Antagonist(s)	

Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Resolution

Question	Answer
Conflict (Man vs. Man, Man vs. Nature, Man vs. God, Man vs. Himself, Man vs. Society)	
Meaning of the Title	
Major Themes	
Minor Themes	

Other Characters (these are the main, there are others):

Who	Adjectives
Puck	
Oberon	
Titania	
Lysander	
Demetrius	
Hermia	
Helena	
Egeus	
Theseus	
Hippolyta	

AS YOU LIKE IT

Summary:

Virtues:

Faults:

Characters:

Question	Answer
Protagonist(s)	
Adjectives to describe Protagonist(s)	
Antagonist	
Adjectives to describe Antagonist(s)	

Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Resolution

Question	Answer
Conflict (Man vs. Man, Man vs. Nature, Man vs. God, Man vs. Himself, Man vs. Society)	
Meaning of the Title	
Major Themes	
Minor Themes	

Other Characters (these are the main, there are others):

Who	Adjectives
Rosalind	
Orlando	
Duke Senior	
Jaques	
Celia	
Duke Frederick	

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

Summary:

Virtue:

Fault:

Characters:

Question	Answer
Protagonist(s)	
Adjectives to describe Protagonist(s)	
Antagonist	
Adjectives to describe Antagonist(s)	

Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Resolution

Question	Answer
Conflict (Man vs. Man, Man vs. Nature, Man vs. God, Man vs. Himself, Man vs. Society)	
Meaning of the Title	
Major Themes	
Minor Themes	

Other Characters (these are the main, there are others):

Who	Adjectives
Shylock	
Portia	
Antonio	
Bassiano	
Gratiano	
Jessica	

KING LEAR

Summary:

Virtues:

Fault:

-

Characters:

Question	Answer
Protagonist(s)	
Adjectives to describe Protagonist(s)	
Antagonist	
Adjectives to describe Antagonist(s)	

Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Resolution

Question	Answer
Conflict (Man vs. Man, Man vs. Nature, Man vs. God, Man vs. Himself, Man vs. Society)	
Meaning of the Title	
Major Themes	
Minor Themes	

Other Characters (these are the main, there are others):

Who	Adjectives
King Lear	
Cordelia	
Goneril	
Regan	
Kent	

MACBETH

Summary:

Virtue:

Fault:

Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Resolution

Question	Answer
Conflict (Man vs. Man, Man vs. Nature, Man vs. God, Man vs. Himself, Man vs. Society)	
Meaning of the Title	
Major Themes	
Minor Themes	

Other Characters (these are the main, there are others):

Who	Adjectives
Macbeth	
Lady Macbeth	
Three Witches	
Banquo	
King Duncan	
Macduff	
Malcolm	

THE TRAINING OF THE SHREW

Summary:

Virtue:

Flaw:

Characters:

Question	Answer
Protagonist(s)	
Adjectives to describe Protagonist(s)	
Antagonist	
Adjectives to describe Antagonist(s)	

Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Resolution

Question	Answer
Conflict (Man vs. Man, Man vs. Nature, Man vs. God, Man vs. Himself, Man vs. Society)	
Meaning of the Title	
Major Themes	
Minor Themes	

Other Characters (these are the main, there are others):

Who	Adjectives
Katherine (The Shrew)	
Petruchio	
Bianca	
Baptista	
Lucentio	

ROMEO AND JULIET

Characters:

Question	Answer
Protagonist(s)	
Adjectives to describe Protagonist(s)	
Antagonist	
Adjectives to describe Antagonist(s)	

Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Resolution

Question	Answer
Conflict (Man vs. Man, Man vs. Nature, Man vs. God, Man vs. Himself, Man vs. Society)	
Meaning of the Title	
Major Themes	
Minor Themes	

Other Characters (these are the main, there are others):

Who	Adjectives
Romeo	
Juliet	
Friar Lawrence	
Mercutio	
Tybalt	
Capulet	

Lady Capulet	
Montague	
Lady Montague	
Benvolio	
Paris	

HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK

Summary: .

Virtue: Repentance – The Queen is repentant as well as Hamlet for the murder of Polonius

Flaw: Haste (Hamlet killing w/o knowing who was behind the curtain)

Characters:

Question	Answer
Protagonist(s)	
Adjectives to describe Protagonist(s)	
Antagonist	
Adjectives to describe Antagonist(s)	

Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Resolution

Question	Answer
Conflict (Man vs. Man, Man vs. Nature, Man vs. God, Man vs. Himself, Man vs. Society)	
Meaning of the Title	
Major Themes	
Minor Themes	

Other Characters (these are the main, there are others):

Who	Adjectives
Hamlet	
Claudius	
Gertrude	
Polonius	
Horatio	
Ophelia	
Laertes	
The Ghost	

OTHELLO

Summary:

Virtue: love,

Fault: Evil, jealousy

Characters:

Question	Answer
Protagonist(s)	Othello
Adjectives to describe Protagonist(s)	Jealous,
Antagonist	Iago
Adjectives to describe Antagonist(s)	

Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Resolution

Question	Answer
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Conflict (Man vs. Man, Man vs. Nature, Man vs. God, Man vs. Himself, Man vs. Society)	
Meaning of the Title	
Major Themes	
Minor Themes	

Other Characters (these are the main, there are others):

Who	Adjectives
Othello	
Desdemona	
Iago	
Michael Cassio	

The Characters

- Which character do you identify with?
- Which do you *admire or dislike*?
- Who in this book would you most *like* to meet? What would you ask—or say?

The Story, the Plot and Your Experience

- Is the *plot well developed*? Is it believable?
- Does the book *remind you of someone*—or something—in your own life?

Title, Themes, Style and Symbolism

- How does the title *relate to the book*? Can you pick out a passage that's profound or interesting—or perhaps sums up the central issue of the book?

The Ending

- Did you *expect the ending* or did it *surprise* you?
- Was the ending *satisfying*? If you could *rewrite the ending*, would you?
- What ending would you have chosen for the story?

Do You Want to Read More?

- What is the *future of the characters' lives*?

Question for thought:

- **Are there any quotes that resonated with you?**
- **Did you find any foreshadowing?**
- **Did you find any interesting phrases?**

William Shakespeare –

The most influential writer in all of English literature, William Shakespeare was born in 1564 to a successful middle-class glove-maker in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. Shakespeare attended grammar school, but his formal education proceeded no further. In 1582 he married an older woman, Anne Hathaway, and had three children with her. Around 1590 he left his family behind and traveled to London to work as an actor and playwright. Public and critical success quickly followed, and Shakespeare eventually became the most popular playwright in England and part-owner of the Globe Theater. His career bridged the reigns of Elizabeth I (ruled 1558–1603) and James I (ruled 1603–1625), and he was a favorite of both monarchs. Indeed, James granted Shakespeare's company the greatest possible compliment by bestowing upon its members the title of King's Men. Wealthy and renowned, Shakespeare retired to Stratford and died in 1616 at the age of fifty-two. At the time of Shakespeare's death, literary luminaries such as Ben Jonson hailed his works as timeless.

Shakespeare's works were collected and printed in various editions in the century following his death, and by the early eighteenth century his reputation as the greatest poet ever to write in English was well established. The unprecedented admiration garnered by his works led to a fierce curiosity about Shakespeare's life, but the dearth of biographical information has left many details of Shakespeare's personal history shrouded in mystery. Some people have concluded from this fact that Shakespeare's plays were really written by someone else—Francis Bacon and the Earl of Oxford are the two most popular candidates—but the support for this claim is overwhelmingly circumstantial, and the theory is not taken seriously by many scholars.

In the absence of credible evidence to the contrary, Shakespeare must be viewed as the author of the thirty-seven plays and 154 sonnets that bear his name. The legacy of this body of work is immense. A number of Shakespeare's plays seem to have transcended even the category of brilliance, becoming so influential as to profoundly affect the course of Western literature and culture ever after

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