

Education Program Week 2: Love and Rehearsal

Following last week's theme on family, what could be more important? In *As You Like It*, alongside family, this show is inherently about finding, creating, falling in, and avoiding love.

ACTIVITY:

Gather into groups of five. Pick characters, and as you read through the scene, think about the types of love expressed in this play.

ROSALIND

, *to Celia*

My father loved Sir Rowland as his soul,
And all the world was of my father's mind.
Had I before known this young man his son,
I should have given him tears unto entreaties
Ere he should thus have ventured.

235

CELIA

Gentle cousin,
Let us go thank him and encourage him.
My father's rough and envious disposition
Sticks me at heart.—Sir, you have well deserved.
If you do keep your promises in love
But justly, as you have exceeded all promise,
Your mistress shall be happy.

ROSALIND

giving Orlando a chain from her neck

Gentleman,
Wear this for me—one out of suits with Fortune,
That could give more but that her hand lacks
Means.—
Shall we go, coz?

CELIA

Ay.—Fare you well, fair gentleman.

ORLANDO

, *aside*

Can I not say "I thank you"? My better parts
Are all thrown down, and that which here stands up
Is but a quintain, a mere lifeless block.

ROSALIND

, *to Celia*

He calls us back. My pride fell with my fortunes.
I'll ask him what he would.—Did you call, sir?
Sir, you have wrestled well and overthrown
More than your enemies.

CELIA

Will you go, coz?

ROSALIND

Have with you. *To Orlando.* Fare you well.

Rosalind and Celia exit.

ORLANDO

What passion hangs these weights upon my tongue?
I cannot speak to her, yet she urged conference.
O poor Orlando! Thou art overthrown.
Or Charles or something weaker masters thee.

Enter Le Beau.

LE BEAU

Good sir, I do in friendship counsel you
To leave this place. Albeit you have deserved
High commendation, true applause, and love,
Yet such is now the Duke's condition
That he misconsters all that you have done.
The Duke is humorous. What he is indeed

More suits you to conceive than I to speak of.

ORLANDO

I thank you, sir, and pray you tell me this:
Which of the two was daughter of the duke
That here was at the wrestling?

LE BEAU

Neither his daughter, if we judge by manners,
But yet indeed the "smaller" is his daughter.
The other is daughter to the banished duke,
And here detained by her usurping uncle
To keep his daughter company, whose loves
Are dearer than the natural bond of sisters.
But I can tell you that of late this duke
Hath ta'en displeasure 'gainst his gentle niece,
Grounded upon no other argument
But that the people praise her for her virtues
And pity her for her good father's sake;
And, on my life, his malice 'gainst the lady
Will suddenly break forth. Sir, fare you well.
Hereafter, in a better world than this,
I shall desire more love and knowledge of you.

ORLANDO

I rest much bounden to you. Fare you well.

"Le Beau exits."

Thus must I from the smoke into the smother,
From tyrant duke unto a tyrant brother.

290

But heavenly Rosalind!

He exits.





As You Like It at Shakespeare's Globe 2023. Photo by Ellie Kurtz

WRITE:

- Think about the people in your life who you love, and write them down
 - This can be anyone/anything
 - Musicians, actors, family members, pets etc.
- Was it easy to love these people or did it take time?
 - Do you recognize any similarities or differences between yourself and the people you love? (thoughts universal ideas etc)
- Why do you think Shakespeare chose to write about love?

THINKING CRITICALLY:

- What can we learn from this play if we apply this theme of love to our own lives?
- What can we take away from this play today? Can you think of any instances of hate happening today locally or globally? Can love help? If so, or if not, how do we continue to be active community members in our world?