



ST. LAWRENCE HIGH SCHOOL

A JESUIT CHRISTIAN MINORITY INSTITUTION



STUDY MATERIAL 6

Sub: ENGLISH 'B'

Class: XI

Topic : As You Like It

Date: 10.07.2020

Summary of the Play: Orlando, the youngest son of Sir Roland de Boys, is ill-treated by his brother Oliver. When he responds to the general challenge issued by the Duke's wrestler, Charles, Oliver tells Charles to injure Orlando if he can manage it. The Duke's daughter, Celia, and her cousin, Rosalind, watch the match and Rosalind falls in love with Orlando. Orlando wins but the Duke gets angry when he discovers that Orlando is the son of his old enemy, Sir Roland de Boys. Rosalind gives Orlando a chain to wear and he falls in love with her. The Duke unexpectedly banishes Rosalind and she decides to find her father, the real Duke, who has been overthrown by his brother, Celia's father, Frederick. Duke Senior lives a simple life in the Forest of Arden with some courtiers and huntsmen. Together with the court jester, Touchstone, the girls set out, disguised as a country boy, Ganymede, and his sister, Aliena. Coincidentally, Orlando, fearing for his life, has also left home, accompanied by his father's servant, Adam. Orlando and Adam arrive at the forest and the outlaws welcome them and feed them. Orlando hangs some love poems that he has written to Rosalind from the branches of trees. Rosalind and Aliena find them. Ganymede helps him to cure his lovesickness by wooing him, Ganymede, as though he/she were Rosalind. Oliver is searching for his brother. He lands at the forest and Orlando saves his life. Orlando is injured and when he tells Ganymede about it she faints. Oliver and Celia fall in love. Orlando wishes to marry his real Rosalind. Ganymede promises both Orlando and Duke Senior that he will procure Rosalind the next day if Orlando will agree to marry her and Duke Senior will agree to let Orlando be her husband. The next day, everyone gathers in the forest at the appointed time. Ganymede and Aliena head out of sight together and when they reappear, they have both removed their disguises! Orlando and Duke Senior joyfully recognize Celia and Rosalind and the couples are happily wedded. In the midst of this joyful celebration, news arrives that Celia's father, Frederick, has retired as Duke to become a hermit and returned the dukedom to the rightful owner, Duke Senior. At the end, there is a joyful dance to celebrate the marriages and the happy conclusion.

Genre of the Play: *As You Like It* is most definitely a comedy. More specifically, it's a pastoral comedy. Pastoral portrays the country, as opposed to the city or court, in an idealized or romantic way. Characters from the city or court not only run away to the country and hang out with shepherds before returning back home but also fall in love, not just with the forest life but with each other as well. When the play opens, Duke Senior is already living in the Forest of Arden as an exile with his band of "merry men." Despite the extreme weather conditions and dangerous beasts of the Forest of Arden, Duke Senior tells us that it's like a little paradise on earth. Soon after, Orlando, fearing his brother will kill him, flees to Arden. Rosalind (who gets booted out of court by her wicked uncle) and Celia follow closely on his heels. Also, Rosalind and Celia like the countryside so much that they also decide to buy a "flock and pasture" so they can live the simple life. Even Duke Frederick and Oliver before him become changed individuals and lead happy lives when they

enter the forest. Rosalind and Orlando, Celia and Oliver fall in love with each other in the idyllic countryside.

Significance of the Title: *As You Like It* examines life's big, serious questions but it does so with a light hand and a sense of humor because Shakespeare recognizes the fact that "Foolishness and Folly" are an undeniable part of human nature. During the play's epilogue, Rosalind steps on stage and chats up the audience about the play they have just watched: "I charge you," she says, "to like as much of this play as pleases you." In other words, you can take it or leave it, love it or hate it—a point that Shakespeare reiterates in the title, *As You Like It*. As a title, *As You Like It* also seems like a reference to the endless interpretive possibilities of the play. For some, the play is all about the nature of love whereas for others, it's about the theatrical nature of life. How we read the play and what we choose to take away from it is entirely up to us. There's no one right or wrong way to read this play, just like there's no one right or wrong way to look at the world.

TEXTUAL WORDS & MEANINGS:

WORDS	MEANINGS
1. Usurper	1. a person who takes over someone's position or power illegally or by force.
2. Valour	2. courage.
3. Attire	3. dress.
4. Adversities	4. difficulties.
5. Dissuade	5. advise not to do something.
6. Entreaties	6. requests.
7. Revenues	7. income from properties.
8. Impending	8. going to happen very soon.
9. Fatigue	9. tiredness.
10. Stout-hearted	10. strong-minded.
11. Despise	11. to hate.
12. Morsel	12. a small piece of food.
13. Swoon	13. faint.
14. Strived	14. attempted.
15. Woo	15. to offer love.
16. Lineage	16. ancestry.
17. Repenting	17. feeling sorry or remorse.
18. Venison	18. meat from a deer.
19. Penitence	19. regret, sorrow.
20. Pranks and whims	20. mischievous acts.

SHORT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS :

1. What happened in one of the provinces of France?

Ans: In one of the provinces of France, an Usurper had deposed and banished his elder brother who was the lawful duke and had himself reigned it.

2. Where did the duke go after being driven from his dukedom?

Ans: After being driven from his dukedom, the duke took shelter in the Forest of Arden.

3. Whom did the duke consider his true counsellor and why?

Ans: The duke considered the 'chilling winds' as his true counsellor as they did not flatter but represented to the duke his true condition.

4. Why did Duke Frederick retain Rosalind in his court?

Ans: Duke Frederick had retained Rosalind in his court as a companion for his daughter Celia.

5. Why did the duke send Celia and Rosalind to the young man?

Ans: The duke felt pity for the inexperienced wrestler Orlando and sent Rosalind and Celia to discourage and persuade him from not participating in the wrestling match.

6. Who was Sir Rowland de Boys?

Ans: Sir Rowland de Boys was a dear friend and a true subject of the banished duke.

7. What did Celia perceive about Rosalind?

Ans: Celia perceived that her cousin Rosalind had fallen in love with the handsome young wrestler, Orlando.

8. What did Celia resolve to do?

Ans: Celia resolved to accompany Rosalind and leave the palace.

9. Which names did Rosalind and Celia take?

Ans: Rosalind took the name Ganymede and Celia took the name Aliena.

10. What was the condition of Ganymede and Aliena when they came to the Forest of Arden?

Ans: Ganymede and Aliena were very much tired and hungry when they came to the Forest of Arden.

11. What did Oliver do to Orlando?

Ans: Oliver had disobeyed the commands of his dead father and had not only ignored to educate his brother Orlando but also had plotted to burn him alive after his return from the wrestling match.

12. What did Adam advise Orlando?

Ans: Adam had advised Orlando not to return home as he had heard Oliver plan to burn Orlando alive in sleep in his bed chamber.

13. What did Orlando do when Adam said that he could go no farther?

Ans: When Adam said that he could go no farther, Orlando took him up in his arms and carried him under the shelter of some pleasant trees.

14. What did the duke say to Orlando?

Ans: The duke told Orlando that he was welcome to sit down and have food with them.

15. Why did the duke allow Orlando and his old servant to live with them?

Ans: The duke allowed Orlando and his old servant to live with them in the forest as he found that Orlando was the son of his old friend, Sir Rowland de Boys.

16. What did Ganymede and Aliena find on the trees in the forest?

Ans: Ganymede and Aliena found Rosalind's name carved on the barks of the trees and love sonnets fastened to them.

17. Why did Oliver feel ashamed and remorseful?

Ans: Oliver felt ashamed and remorseful when he saw that his brother, Orlando whom he had treated so cruelly and had even planned to kill him had risked his life to save him (Oliver) from the lioness.

18. How did Ganymede react hearing Orlando being wounded?

Ans: Hearing that Orlando was wounded Ganymede fainted.

19. What message did the messenger bring to the duke?

Ans: The messenger brought the message to the duke that his dukedom was restored to him.

20. Why was the usurper angry with his daughter Celia?

Ans: The usurper was angry with his daughter Celia because she had fled from the palace along with Rosalind.

DESCRIPTIVE / ANALYTICAL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

1. How did the duke and his friends live in the Forest Of Arden?

Ans: The duke and his friends lived a careless and easy life in the Forest of Arden. These people soon got accustomed to the lazy life of the forest and they felt it to be more relaxing than the life of a court. There they lived the life like that of Robin Hood of England. The duke endured patiently the adversities of life. He could also realize the positive aspects of adversity. He compared adversity to that jewel which though taken from the head of a venomous toad, could be precious for medicine. In summer they took rest under the shade of the trees watching the playful sports of the forest-deer. The duke considered the chilling winds to be the true counsellors. The duke drew lessons from nature, found tongues in trees, books in flowing streams, sermons in stones and good in everything.

2. How did Adam, the old faithful servant of Sir Rowland de Boys, warn Orlando about his coming peril? What did he appeal Orlando to do?

Ans: Adam, the old faithful servant of Sir Rowland de Boys warned Orlando of the peril he would be in if he went home. Adam had overheard Oliver vow to burn his brother Orlando alive in his chamber while he slept. Oliver became extremely jealous of Orlando after his win in the wrestling match.

Adam appealed to Orlando to flee the place and knowing well that he had no money he gave Orlando gold amounting to five hundred crowns. This amount Adam had saved for his future use. Adam accompanied Orlando to the Forest of Arden promising that he would take good care of Orlando and work for him.

3. Describe the meeting between Orlando and Oliver in the Forest of Arden.

Ans: Much to their amazement both Orlando and Oliver met each other in the Forest of Arden. One morning, when Orlando was going to meet Ganymede, he saw a man sleeping on the ground with a snake twisted round his neck. The moment Orlando approached the man, the snake glided away. As Orlando went closer and discovered that it was his own oppressive brother Oliver, he had little time to think as a lioness in the nearby bush was getting ready to pounce on him. His feelings for his brother triumphed over his initial hatred for him, and fought the lioness to save the life of his brother. Waking up, Oliver witnessed all that Orlando did for him and felt great remorse. In no time, Oliver begged for forgiveness. Orlando had killed the lioness and the two brothers were in each other's arms. Orlando was wounded but Oliver spared no time and effort to make amends and reconcile with his brother.

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