

Shakespeare in Love Questions for Understanding

I. Who Am I? Match each character on the left with his/her appropriate role on the right.

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|-----------|---------------------------|---|
| 1. _____ | William Shakespeare | A. an official of the Queen |
| 2. _____ | Viola de Lesseps | B. the ruler of England at the time of this production |
| 3. _____ | Philip Henslowe | C. the young noblewoman who posed as a male; also Shakespeare's lover |
| 4. _____ | Hugh Fennyman | D. Shakespeare's friendly rival playwright |
| 5. _____ | Thomas Kent | E. Viola's "stage" name |
| 6. _____ | Christopher Marlowe (Kit) | F. the playwright who wrote <i>Romeo and Ethel</i> , <i>The Pirate's Daughter</i> |
| 7. _____ | Lord Wessex | G. Viola's caretaker |
| 8. _____ | Queen Elizabeth I | H. a loan shark |
| 9. _____ | Lord of Revels | I. Viola's "arranged" fiancé |
| 10. _____ | Nurse | J. The patron who financed Shakespeare's play productions |

II. The Globe Theatre

The Globe Theatre is the stage on which Shakespeare's plays were enacted. Notice the physical aspects of this building and answer the following questions about this structure

11. What shape is this building?
12. How many levels does this building have?
13. How many sides jut out into the audience?
14. During what part of the day are plays performed here? Why?
15. What visual symbol indicated that a play would be performed on that day?
16. Why did men and young boys play the parts of women and children in Shakespeare's plays?

III. The Story – Answer the following comprehension questions as the movie progresses.

17. Why is Henslowe in debt to Fennyman?
18. What offer does Henslowe make to Fennyman to "pay off" his debt?
19. What is the name of Shakespeare's play that promises to be a hit?
20. Is it a tragedy or comedy?
21. What is the name of the real play that eventually evolved from this initial drama?
22. Is it a tragedy or comedy?
23. From what "ailment" is Will Shakespeare suffering?
24. Who does Shakespeare cast into the role of Romeo?
25. What is unique about this character?
26. What becomes of Shakespeare's relationship with this character?

27. What does this relationship do to Shakespeare's writing craft?
28. Who else gives Shakespeare advice about writing?
29. What two reasons attribute to the failure of Shakespeare and Viola's relationship?
 - a. .
 - b. .
30. From what social class is Viola?
31. From what social class is Shakespeare?
32. To whom is Viola to be married?
33. How is Shakespeare able to accompany Viola to a meeting with Queen Elizabeth I?
34. What is Shakespeare's bet with Lord Wessex?
35. Who first learns of the identity of Thomas Kent?
36. What is the reaction?
37. What does Shakespeare do to offset this event?
38. How does Viola become involved in this new arrangement?
39. What does the Lord of Revels reveal to Queen Elizabeth I?
40. How does the queen react?
41. With what power is the queen NOT endowed?
42. Who wins the bet between Shakespeare and Lord Wessex?
43. What happens to Viola?
44. What is Shakespeare's reaction to Viola's outcome?

III. Analysis of the Movie – Answer the following inferencing questions as the movie progresses.

45. What were two theories surrounding Thomas Kent and Christopher Marlowe (Kit) related to Shakespeare?
 - a. .
 - b. .
46. Find two similarities between this movie and *Romeo and Juliet.*, the play you read last year
 - a. .
 - b. .
47. How does the role of superstitions play a part in the movie?