

William Shakespeare's

LEVEL 5

The Taming of The Shrew



At the Alehouse



"Well, is this man dead or is he drunk?" asked the lord.

- Preview:**
1. Read the name of the story.
 2. Look at the picture.
 3. Read the sentence under the picture.
 4. Read the first six paragraphs of the story.
 5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that Christopher Sly is

- ☐ a. a worthless denier.
- ☐ b. the sheriff's friend.
- ☐ c. a tinker.
- ☐ d. a tailor.

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read to find out how Sly is tricked into thinking he is a nobleman.

Petruchio Seeks a Wife

"Here we are in Padua," said Petruchio to his servant Grumio. "This is where our good friend Hortensio lives. I believe this is his house. Knock, Grumio."

"Knock? Whom should I knock? Has anyone done wrong to you?"

"Knock, foolish servant, or I'll knock you on the head."

"My, my," said Grumio, "my master is in a quarreling mood."

Just then Hortensio came outside. "My old friends Petruchio and Grumio! Welcome! But it looks as though you are not in good humor today."

"I couldn't get my servant to knock at your gate," answered Petruchio.

But Grumio defended himself. "You said to knock. Knock who? You said no one had done wrong to you. Now you say you wanted me to knock on the gate."

"Come now, friends, where is your usual good humor?" asked Hortensio. "But tell me, what happy wind blows you into Padua from your home in Verona?"

"It's the wind that blows young men about the world to seek their fortunes," said Petruchio. "My father has died and I am alone. I have come to Padua to look for a wife."

"I shall speak plainly to you, Petruchio," began Hortensio. "I know of a wife for you. She is a shrew with a terrible temper, but she has wealth. But I should not wish her upon you, my good friend."

"Dear Hortensio, since we are friends, I can speak plainly to you. If you know of someone rich enough to be my wife, I'm interested. If she is a shrew and a curst person, I am not troubled. Though she may be as rough as a storm on the sea, as long as she has wealth, I will advance to make her mine."

Hortensio was filled with joy. But he didn't show it. If Petruchio and Katherina were to marry, then Bianca would be free to marry, too. "This woman has

wealth and beauty," Hortensio continued. "Her only fault is that she is curst and rude with an ugly temper. I wouldn't marry her for a mine of gold."

"Hortensio! You do not know how gold affects me. Tell me her father's name. I will advance to make her mine. It's no matter to me if she screams as loud as a crack of thunder in the autumn clouds, as long as she has wealth."

"Her name is Katherina Minola. Her father is Baptista. She is known all over Padua for her scolding tongue."

"I know her father," said Petruchio. "He knew my father as well, but I have never met his daughters. I will not sleep until I meet Katherina. Will you take me to her?"

Grumio finally spoke up. "Go with Petruchio while he's still in good humor."

"I will go with you, Petruchio," said Hortensio, "because Baptista is also the keeper of my treasure, my beautiful Bianca. She is the jewel of my life. But no one can marry her until Katherina is married. Do me a favor, Petruchio. Offer me to Baptista as a tutor for Bianca. I will disguise myself as a teacher. In this way I can woo her while I tutor her."

As they made their way to Baptista's house, they saw Gremio and Lucentio. Lucentio was disguised as a tutor. He went by the name, Cambio.

"Here comes one who also seeks Bianca's hand," Hortensio said. "Let us stand by and listen."

Gremio was speaking. "Here, I have the list of all the books needed for tutoring Bianca. Some contain many a poem about love. You'll need paper too. It should smell of perfume, though Bianca, herself, is sweeter than perfume. Speak well of me, my friend."

Just then the travelers saw each other. "Peace to you, Hortensio," said Gremio. "I be-

lieve you are going to Baptista's house as we are. I promised to look for a tutor for the fair Bianca, and by good fortune, I have found this young man." He pointed to Cambio. "He is well read in poems and other fine books. He teaches art as well."

"And he," said Cambio, pointing to Gremio, "has much learning in music and can instruct Bianca in this art."

Hortensio spoke. "My friend Petruchio, here, has an interest in Katherina. He is willing to marry her for her wealth."

Gremio smiled. "Hortensio, have you told Petruchio all about Katherina?"

But Petruchio answered the question. "In my time I have heard the roar of lions. I've seen the sea puffed up with winds that advance like wild pigs on the run. I've heard the sound of cannon in battle. And you think I am afraid of a woman's tongue?"

Soon the men met two other travelers, "Lucentio" (Tranio), and Biondello. Tranio was disguised as Lucentio. He thought he would tutor Bianca and advance the cause of his master.

"Can you tell me the way to Baptista's house?" asked "Lucentio."

"He has two fair daughters," added Biondello.

"Sir," Hortensio asked, "are you also on your way to woo Bianca?"

"If I am, is there anything wrong with that?" answered "Lucentio."

"She is the choice of Gremio," said Gremio.

"She is the chosen one of Hortensio," added Hortensio.

"Are the streets not as free for me as for you?" asked "Lucentio." "If Bianca has one more to woo her, what difference will that make?"

"This gentleman will out-talk us all," said Gremio.

Soon the men reached Baptista's house.

The Wedding Day

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Preview Answer:

d. Katherina does not want to marry Petruchio.

Choose the best answer.

1. If he fails to show up for the wedding,
 - ☐ a. Petruchio will bring shame upon the Minola family.
 - ☐ b. Petruchio will bring shame upon himself.
 - ☐ c. Petruchio will have to marry a saint.
 - ☐ d. Petruchio will make Katherina miserable.
2. Who comes with the news that Petruchio is on his way?
 - ☐ a. Grumio
 - ☐ b. Biondello
 - ☐ c. Tranio
 - ☐ d. Gremio
3. Petruchio arrives for the wedding
 - ☐ a. in his finest suit.
 - ☐ b. wearing clothes that are too big for him.
 - ☐ c. wearing clothes that are too small for him.
 - ☐ d. dressed in old clothes.
4. Tranio and Lucentio have a talk when
 - ☐ a. everyone leaves for the church.
 - ☐ b. everyone returns from church.
 - ☐ c. Petruchio leaves with Grumio and Katherina.
 - ☐ d. the feast is over.
5. Tranio tells Lucentio that they must keep an eye on
 - ☐ a. Petruchio.
 - ☐ b. Litio.
 - ☐ c. Baptista.
 - ☐ d. all those who spend time with Bianca.
6. Gremio calls Petruchio
 - ☐ a. a madman.
 - ☐ b. a saint.
 - ☐ c. a mad-brained devil.
 - ☐ d. a wicked man.
7. When Petruchio announces that he and Kate cannot stay for the feast, everyone
 - ☐ a. is glad.
 - ☐ b. is disappointed.
 - ☐ c. is not surprised.
 - ☐ d. threatens him.
8. Petruchio
 - ☐ a. is determined to do things his way.
 - ☐ b. is a man of his word.
 - ☐ c. is a dangerous man.
 - ☐ d. is a devil.
9. Another name for this story could be
 - ☐ a. "Petruchio Keeps His Word."
 - ☐ b. "A Saint Called Petruchio."
 - ☐ c. "Petruchio's Strange Behavior."
 - ☐ d. "Petruchio Brings Shame to Katherina."
10. This story is mainly about
 - ☐ a. Petruchio's miserable wife.
 - ☐ b. a man who doesn't know how to dress.
 - ☐ c. the strange way Petruchio acts on his wedding day.
 - ☐ d. preparing the wedding feast.

Check your answers with the Key on page 67.

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