

As You Like It – Act 4 Scene 1

1.) Who takes the lead? (in pairs)



Read through the script on Worksheet I in two different ways: first, with Rosalind as the dominant figure, and then with Orlando leading the conversation. Which interpretation feels more convincing, and why?

2.) “Pray thee, marry us” (solo)



A “handfast” marriage was a formal betrothal agreement between a man and a woman. Despite the Church’s requirement that marriages should be publicly announced and officiated by a priest, handfast unions were regarded as legally binding. The couple would clasp hands and exchange vows, with the marriage typically being formalized in a church soon after.

- In line 102, Celia says “I cannot say the words”. Why does she hesitate? Is she laughing too much because she knows that Rosalind is dressed up as Ganymede? Is she stunned because Rosalind has essentially proposed to Orlando? Or is she unsettled by the fact that Orlando has just “married” Ganymede, who is perceived as a man? Write down your ideas on what might have happened in this scene.

3.) Gender norms (individual work)



- In what ways does Rosalind subvert traditional gender norms in this scene? Think of three arguments.

(Tasks 1. and 2. are remotely inspired by and adapted from the CSS edition)



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