

Question Bank – The Rover by Aphra Behn

Long Questions:

1. What is Restoration Comedy? Justify 'The Rover' as a Restoration Comedy.
2. Write a note on the chief characteristics of Restoration Comedy. Exemplify 'The Rover' as the Restoration Comedy.
3. Write an essay on the themes of the play 'The Rover'.
4. Write an essay on the theme of 'Gender Roles and Female Agency' in the play 'The Rover'.
5. 'Helen Burke also points out, Behn develops chaste or "virgin" female characters that show initiative and daring that might be more regularly assigned to cavaliers and courtesans in other contemporary plays'. Give your arguments to support this statement which tells about the theme of 'Gender Roles and Female Agency' in the play 'The Rover'.
6. 'Hellena is perhaps the most independent and outspoken of all female characters in "The Rover," but the theme of female agency can also be seen in other female characters'. Write a note on other female characters with reference to the theme of 'Female Agency' in the play 'The Rover'.
7. How is the theme of 'Love, Courtship and Marriage' unfolding in the restoration comedy 'The Rover'?
8. 'The plot of "The Rover" revolves around love, courtship, and marriage; most characters spend the entirety of the play either chasing after a personal love interest, or else orchestrating matrimonial arrangements for others'. Give arguments with appropriate illustrations from your reading of 'The Rover'.
9. How is the theme of 'Class and Money' unfolding in the restoration comedy 'The Rover'?
10. Fascinatingly, however, the play does not take a moral stance on disguise, since it is used by moral and immoral characters alike. With reference to this statement, make arguments to study the theme of Disguise and Deceit in the play 'The Rover'.
11. Give symbolic reading of 'carnival', 'masks', 'Angelica's Picture' and 'Swords'.
12. Write an essay on the symbols in the play 'The Rover'.
13. Explain the title of the play 'The Rover'.

14. Who is the rover in the play? Justify your answer with convincing arguments and illustrations.
15. Which female character best represents the playwright, Aphra Behn? Consider the characteristics and beliefs of each female character, and make an argument that relates these distinctive attributes to what you know about Behn.
16. Does the use of different terminology to describe prostitutes in the play have an effect on how a given character is perceived, or how the profession as a whole is perceived? Explain.
17. Moretta claims that love is the “disease” of the female sex, whereas Willmore claims that “virtue” is the true infirmity in women. (84) With whom do you agree and why? Draw from the text to support your answer.
18. Angellica considers the financial negotiations which one makes before marrying a prospective bride the same as prostitution. Do you agree?
19. “All women together ought to let flowers fall upon the tomb of Aphra Behn, for it was she who earned them the right to speak their minds.”
Virginia Woolf said so in ‘A Room of One’s Own’. Do you agree with this statement? Justify your answer with reference to your reading of the play ‘The Rover’.

Short Questions:

1. Write a short answer on the English Cavaliers and the Spaniards.
2. Write a brief note on the character study of the prostitutes in the play ‘The Rover’.
3. Although not a particularly romantic topic, the issue of money runs throughout *The Rover*. Illustrate with your reading of the play ‘The Rover’.
4. Class, meanwhile, creates even deeper issues, since it is the main barometer by which men decide whether or not a woman is worthy of respect. Give argument to support this statement from your reading of the play ‘The Rover’.
5. Write a brief note on the theme of ‘Deceit and Disguise’ in the play ‘The Rover’.
6. Write a brief note on the symbols like Carnival and Swords.
7. Write a brief note on the symbols like Angelica’s Picture.

8. Write a note on the symbol of Swords.
9. Write a brief note on the title of the play 'The Rover'.
10. Write brief note on the 'Prologue'
11. Write a brief note on the Prostitutions as it gets reflected in the play 'The Rover'.
12. Which character represents the playwright Aphra Behn?
13. Why is Hellena so intent on marrying Willmore, and what might this say about her character?

Short Notes:

1. Love, Courtship and Marriage – thematic study
2. Class and Money
3. Gender Roles – thematic study
4. Character Study: Hellena
5. Willmore
6. Florinda
7. Bellville
8. Angelica Bianca
9. Lucetta
10. The Prostitutes – the Courtesan and the Whore
11. The Spaniards – Don Pedro, Don Antonio and Don Vincentio
12. Deceit and Disguise
13. Symbolic study of 'Carnival' & 'Masks'
14. Angelica's Picture