

Small Group Reading Instructions for reading plays

Group leaders

Right now (or the night before – if given)

- 1) **Look over the questions** – No, you don't have to look up the answers – just read them through once (no more than 5 minutes on this). Note the pages you will be skipping (if any) – and you only need to get thru scene 4.
- 2) Next to the question boxes – about every 5 questions or so – **put the actual time that you feel you need to be at in order to finish this in time** (remember, you will be reading the play aloud). Make sure you know WHERE you'll be stopping for the day. You can divide the pages that you will be actually reading (make sure you note the parts you will be skipping) and figure out where you should be based on that. **Make sure you know the schedule for the day you will be doing this** – don't put minutes (ie 32) but put the actual time instead (9:37) next to the boxes
- 3) **If there is something on the flip side of the questions** – briefly look at it (perhaps in conjunction with the questions asked about it).

During the reading

- 1) **Make sure you actually read the play out loud**, with parts, like we do in class **DO NOT ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS WITHOUT READING THE PLAY ALOUD – IF YOU DO YOUR GROUP WILL GET A 0 FOR THE DAY**– for quickness – have people own parts for a page just like we do in whole class readings. The GROUP Leader does NOT read (you've got to pay attention, and wait for the right moment to ask questions). Students may write the answers to these questions as notes or on a separate sheet of paper (it really helps if **at least one student puts them on a separate sheet of paper** – so the group leader can Xerox (copy them) or take a picture of them with their phone later.
- 2) Groups should ideally be **5-8 students each**.
- 3) **No one should have the Act Questions in front of them except for the Group Leader. Make sure they have the flip side showing (there may be another work on this)**. It helps if you are the only one with the questions.
- 4) **Everyone, except you (the group leader), should write** – these questions will be seen again on the final. If you see people not writing, remind them to – at the same time – they need to be taking notes quickly, not writing full fledged answers (or you won't finish). Group Leaders – please Xerox one of your member's answers when you are finished.
- 5) **Try to let your group members answer the questions, not you**. This is one of the hardest parts of teaching. Also, if one group member is being quiet try to ask them questions whenever possible. Make sure everyone contributes.
- 6) **If I am not here – make sure that your group stays focused** – remind them if you need to – that I am counting on them.

I hope you enjoy being in the teacher's seat for a change.

A Group Reading of Act I of *Twelfth Night*

Line	Question
Scene 1 – line 1	VERY FAMOUS LINE. Explain the metaphor – is it possible to eat too much. Given that Orsino’s love is not returned, is it right for him to be “wallowing” in love so? Think of the term “emo.” Does it apply to him? Do we like wallowing in our own sad situations, sometimes?
1-8	Look how many times the word “it” is used – to what purpose – what is the effect of having a pronoun rather than its antecedent – think on how you answered the previous question.
17-20	There is a metaphor here – the hunted “hart” for ____? Does anyone remember the poem – “Whoso list to hunt” Can you draw any comparisons? Be specific (look up the poem later).
24-25	More “emo” evidence?
32-36	Why is Olivia so upset? What does Orsino think of her mourning? Is he justified – why or why not? Remember “Deor” and the girl who was more upset about being pregnant than her brother’s death? How is this kind of the opposite of that idea – how is it the same? How does he keep his pain of his lover for her “fresh”?
43	“Love thoughts lie rich...” Who is this about – his thoughts? Olivia’s?
Scene 2	Quickly (3 minutes or less) go over scene 2 (don’t read the whole scene aloud until line 50) Answer the following: Who is Viola? How did she arrive there? What does she think has happened to her brother? What is connection (think here) with Olivia – (ah ha! Pretty cool!) Now go to line 50
50	After Viola’s lines – What does she say about the Captain’s behavior and his looks? How is this antithetical (look it up) to what we saw in Macbeth (foul is...). Remember this when you read Persuasion and the father’s view of the appearance of old sea captains...
60-63	What does Viola propose to do (with regard to her own guise)? Why? How is this important given what she just said about appearances?
Scene 3	Skip to line 44 – but answer these simple questions first: Who is Toby? Who is Maria? In line 20 – Toby comments on the “tallness” of Sir Andrew – what does that tell us about Toby – how does that idea conflict with what we’ve just seen from Viola on appearances – who do you guys think has the better outlook (based on what you’ve seen of their characters so far)
Line 44-65	Start reading again. Ha! Andrew thinks her name is “Accost” - now do you see why Toby only commented on his tallness? There are other puns at work here that may not be discussed in this class – though you may have noted them in your reading (all that sword stuff). After you get to 65 skip ahead to Scene 4.
Scene 4	Start reading from the beginning of 4 (page 23)
32-43	How does Orsino describe Viola – how does his description fit in with what you’ve talked about. You have seen the word “belie” a lot – it means to “undermine or to show something else to be not true.” How does Viola’s appearance and words belie her heart (think of her brother).
Scene 5 1-19	More puns on the word “hanging” that may not be discussed here.
37-51	The fool calls Olivia a fool – on what grounds?
63-69	After this exchange is read: Does Fool have a point – compare these lines to Macduff’s son’s lines about his father being dead – compare them to the words from Raleigh’s poem where he said life is mostly miserable, but then dared to call it a comedy.
91-93	“to take those things for bird-bolts that you deem cannon bullets.” Explain to your groups satisfaction what this means here.
98-162	Skip these lines and go to 165.
165	Why does Olivia wear a veil? How does Viola have a veil of her own. As you read these lines look for specific spots where you see Olivia beginning to fall for Viola.
198-199	These lines about the changing nature of the moon – how is it matched by the changing nature of love? Of the characters?
250	Why – and be very specific here – does you group think that they switch over to verse at this point?
258-265	What does Olivia say about how she feels about Viola’s master? What are her reasons? Does she have a new one (snap!)
285	She says come no more, UNLESS – unless what? Ha! Why!
301	What is this plague that she refers to (the metaphor – not the literal meaning)
302-304	What do these lines mean – how do they fit in with what you’ve been discussing today?
305-309	Ah the ring – now you know it’s origins? Right?

General Questions for Group Members – Act I – Twelfth Night

There are less questions than usual – be sure to stop the discussion when you get to something that 1) you don't understand 2) you think is cool 3) or that you wrote about when you were reading. As your group reads feel free to jump in anytime - here are some things to think about.

1. How does the use of prose seem to work in this play – comment on it when you see it – talk about why you think it is there – be specific.
2. What connections do you see with Macbeth – how in general is the play the same; how in general is the play fundamentally different?
3. From our Actor's Circle Reading (the one page of the script) – what now makes sense? Be specific.
4. How does any (and all?) of this fit in with what you know about Twelfth Night – and Twelfth Night Celebrations.

Be sure to get a copy of the questions at the end of the class.

Wednesday – Act II; Thursday – Act III; Friday – Act IV; All Late and Extra Credit Work (including Once Future King Group Work) Monday - Act V

I am allowing you to do a Second Tagxedo for up to 100 points Extra Credit – It must be from a Shakespearean Play that we have not studied – the picture must reflect something crucial from that play – make sure at the very least you read a good summary of the entire play before you attempt this. You need to paste the words from the entire play into this one – there are lots of versions online – you should delete the characters names (where they appear their lines – do a search and replace – it's quicker). **Delete or blackout the Tagxedo.com at the bottom**

General Questions for Group Members – Act I – Twelfth Night

There are less questions than usual – be sure to stop the discussion when you get to something that 1) you don't understand 2) you think is cool 3) or that you wrote about when you were reading. As your group reads feel free to jump in anytime - here are some things to think about.

1. How does the use of prose seem to work in this play – comment on it when you see it – talk about why you think it is there – be specific.
2. What connections do you see with Macbeth – how in general is the play the same; how in general is the play fundamentally different?
3. From our Actor's Circle Reading (the one page of the script) – what now makes sense? Be specific.
4. How does any (and all?) of this fit in with what you know about Twelfth Night – and Twelfth Night Celebrations.

Be sure to get a copy of the questions at the end of the class.

Wednesday – Act II; Thursday – Act III; Friday – Act IV; All Late and Extra Credit Work (including Once Future King Group Work) Monday - Act V

I am allowing you to do a Second Tagxedo for up to 100 points Extra Credit – It must be from a Shakespearean Play that we have not studied – the picture must reflect something crucial from that play – make sure at the very least you read a good summary of the entire play before you attempt this. You need to paste the words from the entire play into this one – there are lots of versions online – you should delete the characters names (where they appear their lines – do a search and replace – it's quicker). **Delete or blackout the Tagxedo.com at the bottom.**