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# Sample

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**Response Journal**

Reflections: A Student Response Journal



*The Taming of the Shrew*  
William Shakespeare



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**William Shakespeare**



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## *Response Journal*

### **To The Student**

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.

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*The Taming of the Shrew*

## **Induction 1**

1. The Lord is taking advantage of a drunken Sly, who has been dressed in “sweet clothes, rings put upon his fingers.” The idea is that Sly will think he is a rich lord because of the clothes he is wearing. Do you think that clothes make a person? Write an article for a fashion magazine about your opinion on the subject. Include a creative title and use persuasion to sway your readers.
2. Referring to Sly, it is said “It would seem strange unto him when he waked.” Do you think it would be a struggle for someone to become someone else just by changing his or her clothes and surroundings? Write a short story about a person’s struggle or ease at becoming something they are not.
3. The Lord is using Sly’s drunken state to have some fun. Write a journal or diary entry about a time when you were taken advantage of or you took advantage of someone else. Be sure to write about your feelings after the incident.
4. The Lord tells the players they need to play along with the joke in front of Sly. There can be no indication that anything funny is happening so Sly doesn’t catch on to the prank. Make a list of at least five occasions when your keeping a straight face is beneficial and another list of at least five other occasions when a person shouldn’t keep a straight face.
5. In order for the prank to be successful, the Lord knows that it needs to seem as close to reality as possible. Write a letter to a friend in which you create a very vivid, clear picture of something that happened in your life. Make the incident “As lively as the deed was done.”

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13. Although they are rivals for Bianca's love, Gremio and Hortensio agree to work together for the benefit of them both. Sometimes it is beneficial to work with someone you dislike to achieve the outcome that you both desire. Construct an email to someone you would rather not work with but are willing to because you have the same goal. Be tactful in what you say so as not to offend.
14. Lucentio says that he is in love with Bianca after only seeing her: "Tranio, I saw her coral lips to move,/And with her breath she did perfume the air./Sacred and sweet was all I saw in her." Does love at first sight really exist. Write a poem about your opinion on the subject.

*Note to Teacher: This prompt may be modified for a more structured assignment. The students may attempt to write a sonnet for this prompt.*

15. Tranio can't talk Lucentio out of being in love with Bianca because love comes from the heart, not the mind. Typically, family and friends have the tendency to try to talk those close to them out of loving another because of his or her background, color, financial status, etc. In many cases, though, the couple in question becomes closer. Write an article for a family magazine discussing this issue. Your article must include your opinion, along with suggestions and/or advice.
16. Tranio justifies his deceiving behavior by saying that it is Vincentio who told him to "Be serviceable to my son." Tranio knows that what he is doing is not what Vincentio meant. However, it makes Tranio feel better - knowing how to manipulate the situation. Have you ever twisted a situation to make yourself feel better? Is manipulation the right way to take control of a situation? Do you agree or disagree? Based on your opinion, create a list of all the reasons why manipulation is or is not the right way to make a situation more beneficial to you.

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**Act II, Scene I**

22. Bianca tells Katharina that she “never yet beheld that special face.” In other words, she has not yet met her soul mate, her true love. Do you believe there is just one single person meant for everyone? Why or why not? Write a journal entry discussing your opinion.
23. Baptista seems to favor Bianca over Katharina. Many children believe parents and/or teachers play favorites. Write a letter to your parents or to a teacher explaining why you believe they have played favorites in the past and how it makes you feel. You can either be the child who is favored or who isn't favored.
24. Katharina's father hurts her by favoring Bianca: “...now I see/She is your treasure, she must have a husband./I must dance barefoot on her wedding day,/And for your love to her lead apes in hell./Talk not to me.” Do you think Katharina's feelings are genuine or oversensitive? Choose either Katharina or Bianca, whichever character you like best. Then, as that character, free write for 10 minutes expressing that character's feelings. You can still include your own feelings, especially if the character you choose has similar beliefs. Do not, however, mention yourself.
25. By going on and on about Katharina's beauty, mild behavior, and wondrous qualities Petruchio is trying to win Baptista over with flattery: “I am a gentleman of Verona, sir,/That hearing of her beauty and her wit,/Her affability and bashful modesty,/Her wondrous qualities and mild behaviour...” Do you think “buttering up” or excessive flattery is appropriate or inappropriate? In a three-paragraph essay, explain your opinion.

## **Act III, Scenes I, II, and III**

32. When Lucentio (as Cambio) and Hortensio (as Licio) are “tutoring” Bianca, she takes control of the situation: “Why, gentlemen, you do me double wrong/To strive for that which resteth in my choice./I am no breeching scholar in the schools./I’ll not be tied to hours nor ’pointed times,/But learn my lessons as I please myself;/And to cut off all strife, here sit we down.” The men argue over who gets to spend time with Bianca first. Without seeming shrewish, like her sister, she tells the men exactly what is going to happen. Write an email to Katharina expressing why you think Bianca’s approach to control the situation works better or worse than Katharina’s shrewish approach.
33. Both men express their love to Bianca through code; they use what they are supposed to be teaching to communicate their feelings. Bianca understands what both men are saying. We often use code to communicate with others. Predict who you think will win Bianca’s heart. Then, write a coded telegram to a friend expressing your prediction. The telegram can have no less than one sentence and can be no longer than three sentences. At the bottom decode the message.
34. Katharina is hurt that Petruchio is not there for their wedding. She tries to cover her true feelings with sharp-witted comments, but she can’t hide her feelings anymore, and she breaks down in tears. Write a poem about a time when you used phony comments to cover your true feelings. This poem does not have to rhyme.
35. Petruchio shows up to the wedding dressed outrageously inappropriately. Tranio and Baptista try to get him to change his clothes, but he refuses. He says, “To me she’s married, not unto my clothes.” What is on the outside is not reflective of what is on the inside. In other words, “don’t judge a book by its cover.” Write a short story a person who you initially judged by what he or she looked like, but then discovered the person was different. Clarify why you thought the way you did, and whether you were glad to find out the truth. The story can be true events, or can have fictional elements.