Shakespeare Uncovered

The Roles of Women

Introduction to Rosalind Clip & Heroines in Disguise:

1. Why would Shakespeare want to create a role for a woman who dresses like a boy?

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1. How does that disguise relate to the restrictions placed on women in Shakespeare’s day?

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1. How does the disguise empower her?

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Superior to Men Clip

1. What do the narrator’s observations suggest about Shakespeare’s view on women?

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1. Was Shakespeare’s view different from what people generally believe about women in his society?

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1. Does Shakespeare’s presentation of his heroines empower women, or restrict them?

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Short Answer Prompts

This is a very informal writing assignment, but it is worth a lot of points. Below you will find 5 short answer writing prompts. Your task is to pick 2 of the 5 prompts to respond to. Your answer should be a substantial paragraph that uses specific examples from the play (Quotes not needed unless you would like to use them) to answer the question. This does not need to be typed but you are free to type it if you choose. Remember, the more in-depth your answers go, the more points I can award you. This is a substantial point assignment for this novel so it would be smart to take it seriously and to get it turned on time. Late passes can be used for this assignment if you need it.

* Does Rosalind seem like a “stereotypical woman” according to the ideas of Shakespeare’s time? Or does she suggest that Shakespeare thought that women could be different than the views of his time suggested? Look for particular scenes and speeches to help you answer this question.
* How is Rosalind empowered in the play? Is she able to achieve what she wants? If so, how?
* What is Rosalind’s ultimate fate? What will Rosalind’s life be like after the play ends? Does her fate match her society’s notion of what women must do with their lives? Are we as viewers happy to see her embrace this outcome?
* If you were going to write a modern-day version of *As You Like It*, would you change anything about this character? Describe what you would change specifically. Would her outcome differ?
* With Rosalind, in what ways does Shakespeare overturn his society’s views on women? In what ways does he support what his culture believed about women’s lives?

Due Date: Monday, February 10th