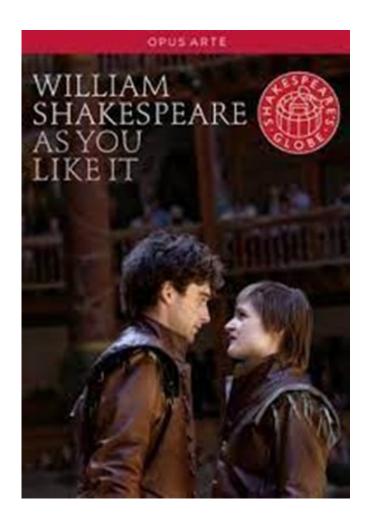
## An A-level Drama introduction to Shakespeare's

## 'As You Like It'





Read through the information below to help remind you who each character is, and what is their main purpose.

**Duke Frederick**: The ruling duke who banishes his niece Rosalind and seeks to maintain his power.

**Rosalind:** Duke Frederick's niece who disguises herself as a man, Ganymede, in the Forest of Arden.

**Celia:** Duke Frederick's daughter and Rosalind's cousin who accompanies her to the Forest of Arden.

**Orlando:** A young nobleman who falls in love with Rosalind and faces trials in the Forest of Arden.

**Oliver:** Orlando's older brother, initially hostile towards him but undergoes a transformation in the play.

**Jaques:** A melancholic lord who observes and philosophizes on life, often in contrast to other characters.

**Touchstone**: A witty court fool who accompanies Rosalind and Celia to the Forest of Arden

**Duke Senior**: The exiled duke and father of Rosalind who lives in the Forest of Arden with his loyal followers.

**Audrey:** A simple country girl who becomes the object of affection for the clown, Touchstone.

**Phoebe:** A shepherdess in the Forest of Arden who becomes infatuated with Ganymede (Rosalind).

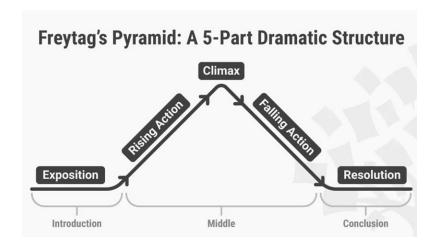
**Silvius:** A young shepherd who pines for Phoebe's love but faces rejection.

**Adam:** A loyal servant to Orlando who accompanies him to the Forest of Arden.

**Charles:** A wrestler in Duke Frederick's court, engaged in a match with Orlando.

**Corin:** A kind shepherd who guides and assists those who enter the Forest of Arden.

**Le Beau**: A courtier in Duke Frederick's court who warns Rosalind and Celia of danger.



The traditional **five-part structure** for a narrative is commonly referred to as the "Freytag's Pyramid" or "Dramatic Arc." It outlines the typical progression of a story and its key elements. The five parts of this structure are as follows:

## 1. Exposition:

The exposition introduces the setting, characters, and the initial situation of the story. It provides background information and establishes the context for the events that will unfold. This section sets the stage and presents the main characters and their relationships.

## 2. Rising Action:

The rising action develops the central conflict or problem of the story. It includes a series of events and complications that build tension and propel the story forward. Characters face obstacles, encounter challenges, and make choices that contribute to the rising tension and anticipation.

#### 3. Climax:

The climax is the turning point of the story and the peak of its intensity. It is the most critical and pivotal moment where the conflict reaches its highest point and the main character faces a crucial decision or confrontation. The outcome of the climax often determines the direction of the story.

## 4. Falling Action:

The falling action follows the climax and shows the consequences or aftermath of the critical choice or conflict. It eases the tension and begins to resolve the main conflict. Loose ends are tied up, and the story moves towards its conclusion. The falling action provides closure and prepares for the resolution.

## 5. Resolution (or Denouement):

The resolution is the final part of the narrative where the story's conflicts are fully resolved. It shows the outcome of the main character's choices and actions. Loose ends are tied up, questions are answered, and the story reaches its conclusion. The resolution provides a sense of closure and may offer insights, lessons, or reflections on the events that transpired.

## The five part structure of the plot for 'As You Like It' has unfortunately been muddled up below.....



- A. Various characters enter the forest, love interests develop, and mistaken identity encounters occur.
- B. Multiple marriages and a festive scene of celebration.
- C. In the court of Duke Frederick, and Rosalind and Celia are banished to the Forest of Arden.
- D. The consequences of the revealed identities and resolved love interests are explored.
- E. Rosalind reveals her true identity to Orlando, confirming their love.

In the box below, put the letters into the correct order for the right structure of the play 'As You Like It'.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

## **Quiz: Features of the Original Globe Theatre**



Having watched the original performance condition video on The Globe Theatre, have a go at answering the following questions! Circle the correct answer!



- 1. Which of the following materials was predominantly used in the construction of the original Globe Theatre?
- A) Stone B) Wood C) Concrete D) Brick
- 2. What was the approximate capacity of the original Globe Theatre?
- A) 1,000-1,500 B) 3,000-4,000 C) 5,000-6,000 D) 8,000-10,000
- 3. What type of stage configuration was used in the original Globe Theatre?
- A) Proscenium stage B) Thrust stage C) Arena stage D) Black box stage
- 4. What was the name of the space beneath the stage of the original Globe Theatre?
- A) Heavens B) Trapdoors C) Hell D) Tiring House
- 5. What was the term used for the highest-priced seating area in the original Globe Theatre?
- A) Yard B) Pit C) Balcony D) Gallery
- 6. Which famous playwright's plays were primarily performed at the original Globe Theatre?
- A) William Shakespeare B) Christopher Marlowe C) Ben Jonson D) Thomas Kyd

## **Context of 'As You Like It'**

## Key question: Although written in 1598, the play was not printed or performed until after 1623.

## Why?

The play was held-back as it was deemed too political for it's own good!

The play contains references to the murder of Christopher Marlowe, whose work was on a band list of literature listed by the Bishops of England, for their satirical nature (seen as inciting a reaction against the notion of the Devine Right of Kings).

In addition, the play, celebrating the pleasures of life away from the official seat of government would have seemed to many younger playgoers as attractive and modern, given the banishment of the Earl of Essex!

In September 1599, he sent military forces to Ireland to put down a rebellion, without the permission of the Queen. He also failed to obtain submission from the rebellious Earl in Ireland – which reflected extremely poorly, politically, at home. His impulsive acts led to his disgrace and house arrest. Not only was he one of the Queen's favourite Earl, he was extremely popular, especially in literary and arts circles; he had a big sphere of influence.

Lord Chamberlain's Men probably did not perform the play in London, for fear of the response of the realm.

Also, the theme of man's ages, especially of the last two phases, were a great deal more topical and risky than modern audiences may realise, as the Queen was now in her late 60s, could be seen as a commentary of her – 'crazy sickness and wayward pettiness.'

Younger courtiers were becoming increasingly restless under the rule of a childless woman, who had reached the 'last scene of all', 'decrepit old age'. Shakespeare and his crew escaped rather lightly during this difficult period of 'censorship'.

Maybe he was prudent in keeping AYLI under wraps.



Queen Elizabeth I

## **Quiz: Context of "As You Like It"**





- 1. Why was the play "As You Like It" held back and not printed until 1623?
- A) The play was unfinished B) The play was deemed too controversial
- C) The play was lost and later found D) The play was not well received by audiences
- 2. Which famous playwright's murder Is referenced in "As You Like It"?
- A) William Shakespeare B) Ben Jonson C) Christopher Marlowe D) Thomas Kyd
- 3. Why did Lord Chamberlain's Men likely not perform "As You Like It" in London?
- A) The play was not popular among audiences B) The play was banned by the Queen
- C) The play was considered too risky politically D) The play was not yet fully written
- 4. What event in September 1599 led to political troubles for the Queen's favourite Earl?
- A) The rebellion in Ireland B) The banishment of the Earl of Essex
- C) The publication of banned literature D) The Queen's illness
- 5. Why were the themes of man's ages in "As You Like It" considered risky during that time?
- A) The play criticized the Queen's rule B) The play mocked the concept of divine right of kings
- C) The play was seen as too depressing for audiences D) The play was banned by the Bishops of England
- 6. What is the significance of the phrase "decrepit old age" in relation to the context of "As You Like It"?
- A) It refers to the aging Queen Elizabeth I B) It symbolizes the decline of the arts
- C) It describes the young courtiers' restlessness
- D) It reflects the popularity of the play among younger audiences

## Key Themes of 'As You Like It'



#### Love

- •The play is a spoof of the typical conventions of Elizabethan poetry and literature about love
- •The play breaks the courtly love tradition by portraying love as a force for happiness and fulfilment.
- •Unlike typical courtly love texts, the play ridicules those who revel in their own suffering.
- •Orlando's poetry spoofs romantic sonnets, where a love object is treated like earthbound perfection
- •The poor quality of his work highlights the wide gap which exists between the fancies of literature and the kind of love which exists in the real world
- •With the Church central to Elizabethan life, the eroding of the sanctity of marriage, by having sex with whomever you lust after is also a controversial theme.
- •Rosalind, in ridiculing love sickness in others both Silvius and in Orlando, uses them to help aid her own misery at her unrequited love, into merriment.
- •Silvius and Phoebe differ from O and R; unlike them, they are unable to turn love melancholy into a pastime, but instead suffer in pain because of it; the ridiculousness of their problems amuse the other characters, and audience alike.



## Marriage

- •It is normally the case that marriage resolves everything in literature of this time; we are not generally encouraged to speculate on anything that could go wrong.
- •However, through Touchstone, we see the exploitation of marriage for sexual gratification. Here, marriage, which is supposed to restrain and order sexual desire within a Christian Society, is used as a pretext for sexual liberty by those unscrupulous enough to do so.
- •This subverts and further parodies the expectations of literature concerning love at the time.



- •The play shows the audience that people can and do change!
- •Whether physically, emotionally or spiritually, those who enter Arden are remarkably different when they leave
- •Also the consequences of change also matter in 'the real world' of the play; the Court life will be less rigid under Duke Senior, with class structures seemingly becoming less rigid, after the experiences the characters have in the Forest.



## **Country versus Court**



- After the opening scenes focusing on the violence of Duke Frederick's court, the contrasting location
  the forest is starkly different
- Duke Senior enjoys life in the forest more than the court as it is free from the falsity and treachery of life at the court. Celia in A1.3 states: 'To liberty, and not to banishment' the forest is not a place to begrudge.
- •The pleasures of retired contemplation in remote woodlands were commonplace of Elizabethan courtly literature there is genuine delight in country life.
- For Orlando the Forest offers: a place for his natural goodness to be recognised; honour, despite poverty and lack of education; and training in 'gentleness' that his brother denies him.



## Homoeroticism, Gender and Sexual Experimentation

- The theme is raised through Rosalind's cross-dressing
- •The name Ganymede, traditionally in mythology is associated with homosexuality as Ganymede, a beautiful boy, was one of Jove's (Jupiter God of the Sky) lovers. (Greek Mythology)
- •Even though Orlando is supposed to be in love with Rosalind, he seems to enjoy the façade of acting out his relationship with a young man; at times it seems the boy, who looks like his lover, is more appealing than the woman herself.
- •In addition, Phoebe is more attracted to the feminine looking Ganymede than she is to her male suitor Silvius.

Homosexual and heterosexual love exist in a continuum in the play, which as the title suggests, one can move as s/he likes.

- •The forest offers Rosalind release from her existence as an unwelcome misfit at the court, as well as escaping the restrictions of her gender
- •As Ganymede, she takes great pleasure in being liberated to speak openly; she also enjoys the chance to manipulate other people, both men and women.

### Exile

- •Some characters have been forcibly removed; with such conflict and strife it is somewhat surprising the play ends with such unity.
- •The 'community' which emerges in the Forest, and sings and dances it's way through Act 5 Scene 4, is the same community which will return to the dukedom in order to rule and be ruled.
- •This event, where the poor dance in the company of royalty suggests a utopian world in which wrongs can be righted, wounds healed, and status merged.





- •In civilised society freedom of speech is the greatest of all freedoms. Its importance in this play is stressed through the role of Jaques; who is an awkward customer and social misfit.
- •Examples of his outspoken nature come as he criticises Duke Senoir in A2.1. He accuses them of being themselves 'usurpers' and 'tyrants' by hunting and living in the Forest they have taken over nature, just as Duke Frederick took over Duke Senior.
- Duke Senoir is fond of Jaques, and encourages him to speak freely; something we assume he cannot do in the court of Duke Frederick.
- •The purpose of Jaques' sullen impressions of life, are to stimulate other characters, and the play's audience, to arrive at a fuller appreciation of the value of generosity and comradeship.
- It suits Jaques to be an outsider, to be in opposition rather than be actively associated with government.

### Quiz: Themes and Context of "As You Like It"

- 1. What is the main purpose of "As You Like It" in relation to Elizabethan literature about love?
- A) To uphold the conventions of courtly love
- B) To promote suffering and unrequited love
- C) To ridicule and spoof typical love conventions
- D) To emphasize the sanctity of marriage



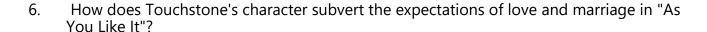
- A) It portrays love as a force for happiness and fulfilment
- B) It emphasizes the suffering and longing of unrequited love
- C) It adheres strictly to the ideals of courtly love
- D) It promotes the sanctity of marriage



- A) It treats the love object as perfection
- B) It emphasizes suffering and longing for love
- C) It focuses on the realities of love in the real world
- D) It adheres strictly to courtly love conventions



- A) The erosion of the sanctity of marriage
- B) The promotion of fidelity within marriage
- C) The celebration of arranged marriages
- D) The subversion of societal norms
- 5. How does Rosalind use love sickness to cope with her own unrequited love?
- A) By ridiculing others who are love-sick
- B) By seeking solace in solitude and self-reflection
- C) By encouraging others to pursue their desires freely
- D) By engaging in multiple romantic relationships



- A) By upholding the ideals of courtly love
- B) By promoting fidelity and monogamy within marriage
- C) By exploiting marriage for sexual gratification
- D) By highlighting the importance of romantic longing



- 7. What does "As You Like It" demonstrate about human experience?
- A) People remain the same throughout their lives
- B) People are resistant to change
- C) People can and do change
- D) People's experiences have no impact on their lives
- 8. How are the characters transformed as a result of their experiences in the Forest of Arden?
- A) They become physically stronger
- B) They become emotionally detached
- C) They become spiritually enlightened
- D) They become more rigid in their beliefs
- 9. What are the consequences of change in "As You Like It"?
- A) The Court life becomes more rigid
- B) The characters remain unchanged after their experiences
- C) The characters become less rigid in their social class structures
- D) The Forest of Arden has no impact on the characters' lives
- 10. How does the forest in "As You Like It" differ from the court?
- A) The forest is filled with violence and treachery
- B) The forest is a place of banishment and misery
- C) The forest offers freedom from the falsity of court life
- D) The forest lacks any form of pleasure or delight
- 11. Why does Duke Senior enjoy life in the forest more than the court?
- A) The forest provides opportunities for violence and treachery
- B) The forest is a place of banishment and suffering
- C) The forest allows him to retire and contemplate in genuine delight
- D) The forest offers no advantages over the court life

- 12. What was the perception of remote woodlands in Elizabethan courtly literature?
- A) They were portrayed as violent and dangerous places
- B) They were seen as places of banishment and misery
- C) They were associated with genuine delight and pleasures of country life
- D) They were believed to be devoid of any form of happiness or contentment
- 13. What is the definition of homoeroticism?
- A) The fear or aversion towards homosexuality
- B) Romantic or sexual attraction between individuals of the same gender
- C) The belief that gender identity is fluid and non-binary
- D) The cultural and social norms surrounding heterosexual relationships
- 14. What is the association between the character Ganymede and homoeroticism?
- A) Ganymede represents fear and aversion towards homosexuality
- B) Ganymede embodies the fluidity of gender identity
- C) Ganymede is traditionally associated with homosexual relationships in mythology
- D) Ganymede symbolizes the cultural norms surrounding heterosexual relationships
- 15. How does Orlando's behaviour towards Ganymede challenge the idea of his supposed love for Rosalind?
- A) Orlando is repulsed by the idea of a romantic relationship with Ganymede
- B) Orlando finds the façade of a relationship with Ganymede more appealing than with Rosalind
- C) Orlando is confused by his own feelings and desires towards Ganymede
- D) Orlando remains committed to his love for Rosalind despite Ganymede's presence
- 16. Who is more attracted to the feminine-looking Ganymede in the play?
- A) Rosalind
- B) Silvius
- C) Phoebe
- D) Orlando

- 17. How does "As You Like It" portray the relationship between homosexual and heterosexual love?
- A) It suggests that homosexual love is superior to heterosexual love
- B) It presents a clear distinction between homosexual and heterosexual love
- C) It challenges the idea of fixed categories and allows for a continuum between both forms of love
- D) It promotes the normalization of same-sex relationships over opposite-sex relationships
- 18. How does the forest offer release to Rosalind from her existence at the court?
- A) By providing a new set of social restrictions
- B) By allowing her to become a misfit at the court as well
- C) By offering her a chance to escape the restrictions of her gender
- D) By subjecting her to even more unwelcome experiences
- 19. What does Rosalind enjoy as Ganymede in the forest?
- A) Being silent and unnoticed
- B) Being liberated to speak openly
- C) Conforming to traditional gender roles
- D) Rejecting the chance to manipulate others
  - 20. Despite conflict and strife, how does the play "As You Like It" end?
  - A) With further divisions and separations among the characters
  - B) With chaos and disarray in the Forest
  - C) With a sense of unity and community
  - D) With the characters remaining in exile indefinitely
- 21. What is the significance of the community that emerges in the Forest in "As You Like It"?
- A) It represents a world where conflict and strife cannot exist
- B) It symbolizes the permanence of exile and separation
- C) It foreshadows the downfall of the characters in the Forest
- D) It suggests the possibility of healing, reconciliation, and a harmonious society

- 22. What does the dancing and mingling of the poor and royalty in Act 5 Scene 4 suggest?
- A) A continuation of social divisions and hierarchies
- B) The reinforcement of the status quo and inequality
- C) The creation of a utopian world where wrongs can be righted
- D) The celebration of ongoing conflict and strife
- 23. What is the role of Jaques in emphasizing the importance of freedom of speech in the play?
- A) Jaques represents a character who never speaks his mind
- B) Jaques symbolizes the restrictions placed on freedom of speech in the court
- C) Jaques promotes censorship and control of speech
- D) Jaques encourages open and honest expression of opinions
- 24, What does Jagues criticize the Duke Senior (DS) for in Act 2, Scene 1?
- A) DS's lack of hunting skills
- B) DS's usurpation and tyranny by hunting and living in the Forest
- C) DS's fondness for Jaques
- D) DS's association with Duke Frederick (DF)
- 25. Why does Jaques prefer to be an outsider and in opposition rather than being actively ass -ociated with the government?
- A) He is fearful of the consequences of expressing his opinions
- B) He dislikes the forest and wants to be back in the court
- C) He enjoys causing conflicts and disagreements among the characters
- D) He finds more freedom and satisfaction in expressing his views as an outsider
- 26. What is the purpose of Jaques' sullen impressions of life in the play?
- A) To promote selfishness and individualism
- B) To discourage generosity and comradeship among the characters
- C) To challenge the value of freedom of speech
- D) To stimulate appreciation for the value of generosity and comradeship
  - 27. In which setting does Jaques feel more comfortable expressing his opinions freely?
- A) The court of Duke Frederick (DF)
- B) The Forest of Arden
- C) Neither setting allows him to express his opinions freely
- D) Jaques remains silent throughout the play

## **Costume of 'As You Like It'**

# Key question: When first performed in the 17th century, what type of costume would have been worn by each character?

## **History Lesson!**

Elizabethan clothing of the Upper Class was sumptuous. The materials were luxurious and covered a whole variety of colours.

Due to 'The Sumptuary Laws' ordinary Elizabethans were not able to wear the latest fashions. Fashionable clothes would only be seen at a distance, when wealthy nobles or Royalty were in view!

Elizabethan actors were granted special permission to wear these fine clothes.

Costumes in the Elizabethan Theatre would therefore double as a fashion show!

All people of the Elizabethan period understood the meaning of different coloured clothing - nearly every colour of clothing had its own meaning during the Elizabethan era

### The meaning of colours!

The colours of the costumes therefore conveyed an enormous amount of information as soon as the actor walked on to the stage.

<u>Status</u>	Colours
Royalty	Purple (main colour), also gold, silver, crimson, scarlet, deep indigo blue, violet
Nobility	Deep black and pure white
Lower class	Yellow, russet (dark brown, with red tinge), pale blue, green, pink and orange

## The meaning of fabrics!

Like colour, fabrics also conveyed status to an audience.....

<u>Status</u>	<u>Fabric</u>
Upper Class/ Nobility/ Royalty	velvets, furs, silks, lace, cottons and taffeta (a type of silk with a crisp texture)
Lower class/ Peasants	canvas, felt, flannel, gauze, linen, satin, wool, and sheepskin however, silk, taffeta and velvet trimmings were allowed

## **Elizabethan fashions**

Clothes worn in this era were influenced by the ideas of the *Renaissance* (focus on Science and Maths) such as clothing taking the form of *geometric shapes*, rather than the natural shape of the body.

**Padding** and **quilting**, along with the use of whalebone or buckram (stiff cloth, made of cotton, occasionally linen and horse hair) were used for stiffening purposes. Clothing was stiffened to **emphasize the shoulders and the hips.** 

Fashion was designed to give the impression of a *small waist* (both women and men)

Men wore a type of corset – tight waisted with stiffened doublets. Men aspired to obtain the 'wasp waisted look'.

Lower classes would *slash the fabric* of their clothing, as a base colour would be revealed underneath.

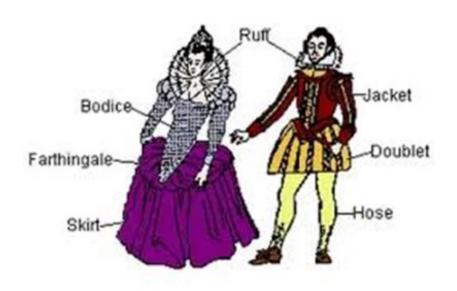
Fashion for women became more *seductive* towards the end of this time period. This was achieved by *opening the ruffle* in front of the neck – thus framing the face.

Although a more 'seductive' fashion developed, it was important for Queen Elizabeth to maintain the image of the virgin queen – which was a popular look women aspired to replicate.

The Elizabethan view of pure beauty was for women to have *light hair*, a *snow white complexion* and *red cheeks* and *lips*.

Dress was *highly elaborate* with many *layers* (with servants helping women to dress). The clothing was typically tight, hot and uncomfortable.

Looser garments were worn by the upper class when at home and not entertaining.



## **Costume Knowledge Quiz**

- 1. Which costume would best fit the character of Rosalind in "As You Like It" to convey her social status as a noblewoman?
- a) Velvet gown with lace trimmings
- b) Woolen dress with slashed fabric
- c) Linen tunic with gauze overlay
- d) Satin gown with floral patterns
- 2. Which costume would best fit the character of Touchstone in "As You Like It" to convey his social status as a court jester?
- a) Purple doublet with gold accents
- b) Yellow tunic with green embroidery
- c) Felt coat with fur collar
- d) Pale blue shirt with pink ruffle
- 3. Which costume would best fit the character of Duke Frederick in "As You Like It" to convey his social status as a ruler?
- a) Black robe with silver embellishments
- b) Scarlet coat with deep indigo blue trim
- c) Russet tunic with orange accents
- d) Pale blue robe with floral patterns
- 4. Which costume would best fit the character of Audrey, a country girl, in "As You Like It" to convey her social status as a lower-class peasant?
- a) Silk gown with lace collar
- b) Canvas dress with woolen trimmings
- c) Velvet bodice with taffeta skirt
- d) Linen blouse with satin ribbons
- 5. Which costume would best fit the character of Orlando in "As You Like It" to convey his social status as a member of the lower class?
- a) Velvet doublet with lace cuffs
- b) Pale blue tunic with pink ruffle
- c) Deep black coat with white accents
- d) Green shirt with orange embroidery



## **Key question: Relevancy.**

## Why would a director or theatre producer consider staging a version of 'As You Like It' in 2023?

Original Themes of "As You Like It" remain relevant in society today in 2023:

- 1. **Identity and Self-Discovery**: The theme of exploring one's identity and finding self-discovery is still highly relevant in today's society. People continue to navigate questions of personal identity, gender identity, and self-expression, just like the characters in the play.
- 2. **Love and Relationships:** The complexities of love and relationships depicted in the play are timeless. Themes of unrequited love, the exploration of different types of love, and the challenges of navigating romantic relationships are still pertinent in contemporary society.
- 3. **Freedom and Escape:** The desire for freedom and escape from societal constraints is a theme that resonates with modern audiences. People today continue to seek liberation from societal expectations, whether it's through travel, unconventional lifestyles, or finding personal freedom in various forms.
- 4. **Nature and the Environment**: The play's emphasis on the restorative power of nature and its contrast to the artificiality of the court is highly relevant in today's environmentally conscious society. The theme highlights the importance of preserving and appreciating the natural world.
- 5. **Social Hierarchies and Inequality:** The exploration of social hierarchies and inequality in "As You Like It" remains relevant in contemporary society, where issues of social justice, class disparities, and power dynamics persist. The play prompts discussions about the fairness and equity of social structures.
- 6. **Freedom of Expression**: The theme of freedom of speech and expression, as depicted through the character of Jaques, continues to be significant today. The importance of allowing diverse voices to be heard and fostering open dialogue remains a relevant topic in modern society.
- 7. **Unity and Community**: The play's exploration of unity and the formation of inclusive communities is still relevant today. The idea of overcoming differences, embracing diversity, and finding common ground is a theme that resonates in an increasingly interconnected and globalized world.

These are just a few examples of how the original themes of "As You Like It" continue to have relevance and resonance in society today. The play's exploration of human nature, relationships, identity, and societal dynamics makes it a timeless piece of literature that can still engage and provoke thought in contemporary audiences.

#### **EXTENSION TASK**

Can you find recent news headlines or articles (from 2019 until today) which reflect any of the seven themes above?

FRIME STANDING SCHOOL STORES S