

AS YOU LIKE IT CLASSROOM DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Prompts provided by David Daniel, Director of Education (and Jaques)

1. It is possible to fall deeply in love with someone you just met.
2. Fighting with brothers and sisters usually fades away as you get older.
3. Moving from a city to live in nature is the best way to a peaceful and perfect life.
4. It is okay to alter your appearance or identity to keep yourself safe.
5. True love requires suffering and emotional pain.
6. Being forced out of your comfort zone makes you a stronger person.
7. I would hide who I truly am if it meant avoiding severe trouble.
8. Jealousy between family members is harder to fix than jealousy between friends.
9. People act completely differently when they are in the country than when they are in a city.
10. Cynicism (emo or goth) is just pretending you are smart or sophisticated.
11. A true friend will follow you, no matter what.
12. Dating relationships built on playful teasing last longer than those that are serious.
13. You can learn more about real life from experience than from books or school.
14. People usually fall in love with the *idea* of someone rather than who they actually are.
15. It is wrong to hold a grudge against a family member, no matter what they did to you.
16. Changing your environment can completely change your personality.
17. It is okay to test someone's loyalty through a trick or lie.
18. Wealth and social power usually corrupt a person's character.
19. Most people play a specific "role" or persona when they are around others.
20. Forgiving someone who mistreated you makes you weak.
21. Younger siblings are often treated unfairly compared to older siblings.
22. Unrequited love (loving someone who doesn't love you back) is a waste of time and energy.
23. Happiness depends on your attitude, not your circumstances.
24. It is easier to give good relationship advice to others than to follow it yourself.
25. Everyone deserves a chance at a fresh start, no matter what they did in the past.
26. A family member's jealousy is far more dangerous than an enemy's hatred.
27. If an authority figure tells me to turn against someone I love, I will obey to keep myself safe.
28. Once someone strips away your status, home, and comfort, you lose who you really are.
29. Running away from home changes your personality forever.
30. People who always act cheerful are usually hiding their deep unhappiness.
31. A cynical outlook on life is more realistic than an optimistic one.
32. Outcasts and rebels are formed by bad society, not bad character.
33. It is impossible to truly forgive someone who tried to ruin your life.
34. Human life is ultimately meaningless, as everyone ends up in the exact same place anyway.
35. Exile or isolation is a punishment worse than physical harm.

AS YOU LIKE IT CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

EXPLORING THE PLAY

CREATIVE WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

- **Write an alternative ending to the play.** What might happen if all of the characters remained in the Forest of Arden at the end of the play? Where do Jaques' next adventures take him?
- **Build a character diary.** Write a letter or diary entry from the perspective of one character in the play. What would they write about? Who is the intended recipient of the letter?
- **Update the story.** If you were adapting *As You Like It* for 2026, what would you change and what would you keep? Would you represent relationships between characters differently today than in 1600? Why?

VISUAL AND AUDIO ASSIGNMENTS

- **Make a playlist.** Go through the play and add music that reminds you of the major plot points to a playlist. What kind of music were you drawn to? What songs remind you of which characters?
- **Draw a comic of a scene.** Put your artistic skills to use! Pick a scene or act from *As You Like It* and illustrate the action.
- Make a **Get Ready with Me** from the perspective of one of the characters in *As You Like It*. What would they say? How would they get ready?

LEARNING THE LANGUAGE

- **Dramatize a missing scene** related to the characters and situation in the play. How did Touchstone and Audrey meet? When did Oliver and Celia fall in love? How long have Phoebe and Silvius been "a thing?"
- **A World in Words.** Wit is mentioned in *As You Like It* more than 20 times. Love is mentioned more than 160 times. Explore the importance of these words in different contexts throughout the play. How do different characters describe these concepts?
- **Figurative Language.** The characters of *As You Like It* are creative and colorful in their expressions. Find some of the many examples of similes and allusions used throughout the text. How does the language used by characters show us more about who they are and how other people see them?
 - "Live like the old Robin Hood of England." (1.1)
 - "Suck melancholy out of a song as a weasel sucks eggs." (2.5)
 - "My affection hath an unknown bottom, like the Bay of Portugal." (4.1)
 - "Creeping like snail unwillingly to school." (2.7)
- **Nature.** Shakespeare writes about nature extensively in *As You Like It*. Find references to the forest (mentioned 31 times), nature (17) and other outdoor experiences.