ACTIVITIES

1

If you have read or seen other plays by William Shakespeare, you may recognize some of the devices he uses in *As You Like It*. In what other plays might you have seen:

- A family with one evil brother and one good brother?
- Love at first sight?
- An exile from a court to the countryside?
- A fool who is wiser than many of the other characters?
- A woman disguised as a man?
- A character suffering from melancholy?
- Men who do not seem mature enough for the women they love?
- A god who enters at the end to bring about a miraculous transformation?
- An epilogue spoken directly to the audience?

2

Go to http://shakespeare.clusty.com and look up some of the words you find most frequently or prominently in *As You Like It*. For example, select from the following list: time; death/dead/die; live/life/living/alive; love/loves/lovers; time/hour/hours; day/night/sun/moon; father/brother/sister/mother; forest/tree/trees; fool/fools; man/men/woman/women; young/youth/old/age/elder; play/plays/player/players; or "if".

Now look at these same words in some of the other plays Shakespeare was writing around the same time of his career: *Julius Caesar, Henry V, Hamlet,* and *Twelfth Night*. How is Shakespeare using language differently in this play? Why do you think that is?

3

What are the seven ages of man that Jaques talks about in 2.7? To what extent do you agree with this statement about life? Try working in a small group, having one member of the group read Jaques' speech aloud while the rest of the group expresses each age of man using facial expression and/or physical movement.

4

One of Shakespeare's main sources for this play was Thomas Lodge's prose romance Rosalynd. Go online (perhaps to http://books.google.com) or to a scholarly edition of *As You Like It* to learn more about this source. Try to identify the changes that Shakespeare has made to the source material for his play. Why do you think he made the changes in those ways? How does it change the overall effect of the play?

ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

5

Divide into groups and perform *As You Like It,* 1.3, where Duke Frederick banishes Rosalind from the court. Have some groups switch genders in the scene so that the Duke is played by a female and Rosalind and Celia are played by males. How does this change the scene?

6

Choose three students to read the epilogue of *As You Like It* to the class. Ask one student to read it as if they are speaking as Rosalind, one as Ganymede, and one as the boy-actor that would have played Rosalind/ Ganymede. As a class, discuss how each interpretation affects the text. Could it be played with one person switching in and out of all three characters? Where would those shifts occur?

7

The definition and types of love differ greatly from person to person. Write your personal definition of love. Discuss your definitions as a group. How similar/different are the definitions? Why? Why do you think Shakespeare uses love as a plot device in *As You Like It*?

8

Based upon a study conducted by Beverly Fehr, a professor at the University of Winnipeg and author of Friendship Possesses*, Vols 1 & 2,* listed below are 9 different types of love. Which attribute(s) best describe(s) each type of love?

TYPE OF LOVE	ATTRIBUTE
_____Affection	a. to share
_____Sexual	b. to respect
_____Platonic	c. to have a crush
_____Romantic	d. to be long lasting
_____Puppy Love	e. to touch
_____Friendship	f. to be irrational
_____Committed	g. to be intense
_____Infatuation	h. to be idealistic
_____Passion	i. to exhibit warmth

9

The lovers in *As You Like It* are Orlando, Oliver, Rosalind, Celia, Touchstone, Silvius, Phoebe, Audrey, and William. List the person with whom each is in love. Using the left column above, write the type(s) of love you believe each couple exhibits. Pick a different type of love and discuss how it would change the behavior and/or nature of each relationship.