***The Taming of the Shrew***

*Writing Prompt:*

**Does the play, *The Taming of the Shrew*, by William Shakespeare, support the contention that Shakespeare was a feminist?**

Construct your answer using the CLEAR format.

You must first decide through what lens you will interpret the play. Several interpretations are listed below, but rather than choose one, use them to help you think more deeply about the play and the context in which the play was written. Read other interpretations. Review the document that shares the expectations and perspective of women’s roles during the Elizabethan Age. Speak with other individuals. Share ideas and conduct some research. Then, and only then, ***formulate your own unique interpretation*** to guide your response.

*Theories by other scholars:*

1. Regarding the interpretation of Petruchio’s treatment of Katherine, questions are raised as to whether his behavior is a mirror to hers, simply reflecting back her own demeanor so that, in turn, she understands how she’s treated others, or if his actions towards her are much more misogynistic and cruel, and his intentions to “tame” her a reflection of patriarchy instead. I
2. Not only were women in the Renaissance something like “chattel” to use for a sort of bargaining between fathers and suitors, but the qualities that made them either desirable or undesirable as wives leads to the notion of a rightful patriarchal judgment of who a woman should and should not be, that men have a right to reject or “tame” qualities in a woman that they find unattractive. These unattractive qualities usually involve a dominant, mouthy woman such as Katherine.
3. The explicit and implicit subjects of this play--arranged marriages, the authority of fathers and husbands, the obedience expected from daughters and wives, the economic helplessness of most women--were issues and experiences that touched the lives of everyone in Shakespeare’s audience. While modern interpreters may see Shrew as a high-spirited comedy about role-playing of game-playing, they suppress the knowledge that men, not only on stage, but off, wrote the play and assigned the roles, chose the game and made the rules.

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