***Taming of the Shrew* Discussion**

*Directions: Answer the FIVE of the following questions in preparation for the Socratic Seminar.*

1. How are relationships between men and women portrayed in this play? Which characters clearly share friendships with others? Why aren't there any significant female friendships? What does this suggest?
2. How is masculinity portrayed in the play? What makes a "manly" man? Who fits this stereotype? Who does not? On the other hand, what makes a woman the ideal wife? Who fits this stereotype?
3. How are marriages arranged during the time period in which this play takes place? What are the pros and cons of using a system like this? Should this system still be used today?
4. When Petruchio arrived at the wedding dressed in his crazy outfit everyone else was upset. Why do you think he did that? Was that part of Kate’s “taming” or was it for the benefit of everyone else? How do you think people would react if something like that happened today?
5. What do you think motivates Katherine to act as rude and angry as she does? How would you react if you were treated the way Kate is treated by Petruchio? Would you do what he wanted or keep fighting?
6. What role do you think Baptista plays in the relationship between his daughters? Have you ever had a fight with your brother or sister? Do you ever feel like your parents “always” take his or her side instead of yours? What effect does this have on you?
7. Some critiques have argued that The Taming of the Shrew advocates for sexual inequality; others suggest Shakespeare used the play to critique men’s attempts to subordinate women. With which side do you agree? Why?