

Grade: 11		Subject: World Literature 2	
Teachers: Nimon			
Unit # 2 Title: Shakespeare and Feminist/Gender Theory			
Time Frame (calendar and # of weeks):			
Standard(s): RL 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 L 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 W 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 SL 1, 2, 3, 4, 5			
Big Idea(s): Gender Performativity, Masculinity/Femininity, Elizabethan Theater, Shakespeare, Othering			
Essential Questions		Enduring Understandings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some typical female archetypes? Do these limit women roles in literature? • Do literary female archetypes have an effect on women in real life? • What is the “feminine mystery?” Is it real, according to Beauvoir? • Who is Judith Butler? • What does it mean to “perform gender?” What does that mean about terms like masculine and feminine? • What was theater like during Elizabethan times? • Who was William Shakespeare? • How do issues of gender play out in Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night?” • What kinds of female archetypes come to light in Shakespeare’s “Othello?” • How do the actions of characters in “Othello” help define “manhood” and “womanhood?” What are these definitions? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ According to feminist readers, literature provides few archetypal possibilities for female characters. In their view, these characters are a result of patriarchal ideas and agendas. ➤ Gender (like class, education, racial identities) is composed of a series of actions, attitudes, and appearances. As a result, it can be “performed” or acted out by anyone. This allows for infinite interpretative possibilities in both literature and everyday life. ➤ Theater was an important aspect of life during Elizabethan times and was a major source of news, politics, history, and entertainment. ➤ William Shakespeare was one of the most prolific and enduring playwrights in history. His plays are still popular today and are rich with interpretative potentialities. ➤ Feminist theories help reveal society’s gender expectations and status of women at the time of the work’s publication. 	
Areas of Focus		Suggested Instructional Strategies	

Prioritized CPIs

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➤ **Judith Butler and “The Twelfth Night”**

Tier 1 → Activities/Strategies (Knowledge/Comprehension)

Students will define the following terms: Gender, Masculinity, Femininity, Performative

Students will watch videos by Judith Butler, Jackson Katz and others to understand the constructs of gender in today’s society. They will discuss Butler’s concept of performing gender and note the ways in which gender is “taught” through social outlets like movies, music, and television.

Class will take notes on Elizabethan theater and Shakespeare.

Tier 2 → Activities/Strategies (Application/Analysis)

Students can brainstorm and categorize behaviors they think or have been taught belong to one gender or another. They will chart these on a graph in the classroom. Students can create their own #likeagirl videos by asking peers around the school to perform actions “like a girl” or “like a boy” to see whether gender stereotypes are pervasive.

Class will read and/or act out Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night” with emphasis on gender performance. Students will annotate gender behaviors or expectations from Shakespeare’s time (as exemplified in the play) and add these to their “modern expectations” graphs.

Tier 3 → Activities/Strategies (Synthesis/Evaluation)

Students will examine the “expectations” chart and note the differences and similarities between then and now for gender. Students will blog about their findings and note at least one similarity or difference they found interesting/surprising. They can also choose to write about the #likeagirl project and discuss what they learned through discussions with classmates and peers.

➤ **Othello and Feminist Theory**

Tier 1 → Activities/Strategies (Knowledge/Comprehension)

Students will define the following terms: Archetype, Master/Slave Dialectic, femme fatale, feminine mystery.

Students will read and annotate an excerpt of Simone de Beauvoir’s “Second Sex” regarding female archetypes. The class will discuss Beauvoir’s stance on the “feminine mystery” and how she thinks it should be combated. They’ll also chart some of the archetypes she lists and any others they can come up with.

Tier 2 → Activities/Strategies (Application/Analysis)

Students will read and/or act out Shakespeare’s *Othello*, paying particular attention to the social standards that define how men and women must behave and how these standards influence the tragic events of the play.

	<p>Supplementary documents will help guide class discussion.</p> <p>As students read and take notes, they will blog about interesting plot details, changes in character's behavior, and examples of patriarchal constraints (on both male and female characters).</p> <p>Tier 3 → Activities/Strategies (Synthesis/Evaluation)</p> <p>Students will choose one of the following topics (or any other that the teacher provides) and write a well-supported and crafted paper: Compare and contrast the female characters in Othello and discuss the archetypes they represent; analyze Othello's murder of Desdemona as the result of social expectations on men; dispute the claim that women have no power in the play and highlight examples of women exerting influence; distinguish the ways Shakespeare's <i>Twelfth Night</i> supports Judith Butler's concept of constructed masculinity.</p> <p>Students will submit these statements, research notecards, and essay maps prior to submission of the final paper. Classmates will peer edit, with a detailed rubric as their guide, prior to the final due date as well.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Performance Tasks/Assessments</p> <p>Tests and Quizzes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vocabulary Test - Reading Comprehension Quizzes <p>Writing Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shakespeare/Gender Essay - Blog posts - Journal Entries <p>Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - #likeagirl Questionnaire - Shakespeare/Gender Essay 	
<p>Resources:</p> <p>Text: "Second Sex" Simone de Beauvoir "A Succinct Summary of Judith Butler's Performative Acts" – Sarahmrow Manhood/Womanhood in Othello "The Role of Women in Othello" – literary-articles.com Twelfth Night Reading Questions</p> <p>Primary Source Materials: <i>Othello</i> – William Shakespeare <i>The Twelfth Night</i> – William Shakespeare</p> <p>Video(s): Judith Butler - Basic Overview of gender performativity https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bo7o2LYATDc</p> <p>#like a girl Commercial - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjQBJWYDTs</p> <p>"How the Media Failed Women in 2013" -</p>	

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NswJ4kO9uHc>

"Tough Guise: Violence, Media and Crisis in Masculinity"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6es_ByyZHE

(0:00 - 4:29)

"Sexism, Strength, and Dominance in Disney Movies" -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CWMct35oFY>

Internet Resources: