Important Definitions for *Taming of the Shrew*

**PUN:** A play on words that sound the same but that have different meanings. Most often puns are used for their humorous effects.

* I used to work in a blanket factory, but it folded.
* I used to be a lumberjack, but I just couldn’t hack it, so they gave me the axe.

**METAPHOR:** A play on words in which one object or idea is expressed as if it were something else, something with which it shares common features.

My falcon now is sharp and passing empty,

And, till she stoop, she must not be full-gorged.

For then she never looks upon her lure.

An extended metaphor … Kate is a falcon being tamed by its

master.

**SOLILOQUY:** An unusually long speech in which a character who is on stage alone expresses his or her thoughts aloud.

The audience is supposedly overhearing the private thoughts of the character.

**SONNET:** A fourteen-line poem that is usually written in iambic pentameter and that has one of several rhyme schemes.

Shakespearean sonnet has three four-line units (quatrains),

followed by a concluding two-line unit (couplet). The most common rhyme scheme for a Shakespearean sonnet is abab cdcd efef gg.

**FARCE:** an exaggerated comedy. Often boisterous, its humor depends on the situation, leaving little room for the development of character.

**SHREW:**

* Loud-tongued
* Fiery temper
* Ungovernable spirit
* Nagging, scolding