

She stoops to conquer by oliver goldsmith

The main themes :

Class

While the play is not explicitly a tract on class, the theme is central to it. The decisions the characters make and their perspectives on one another, are all largely based on what class they are a part of. Where Tony openly loves low-class people like the drunks in the Three Pigeons, [Marlow](#) must hide his love of low-class women from his father and "society." His dynamic relationship with Kate (and the way he treats her) is defined by who he thinks she is at the time - from high-class Kate to a poor barmaid to a woman from good family but with no fortune. [Hastings'](#) and Marlow's reaction to [Hardcastle](#) is also a great example of the importance of class—they find him impudent and absurd, because they believe him to be of low class, but his behavior would be perfectly reasonable and expected from a member of the upper class, as he truly is.

Money

One of the factors that keeps the play pragmatic even when it veers close to contrivance and sentiment is the unavoidable importance of money. While some of the characters, like Marlow and Hardcastle, are mostly unconcerned with questions of money, there are several characters whose lives are largely defined by a lack of access to it. Constance cannot run away with Hastings because she worries about a life without her inheritance. When Marlow thinks Kate is a poor relation of the Hardcastles, he cannot get himself to propose because of her lack of dowry. And Tony seems to live a life unconcerned with wealth, although the implicit truth is that his dalliances are facilitated by having access to wealth.

Behavior/Appearance

One of the elements Goldsmith most skewers in his play's satirical moments is the aristocratic emphasis on behavior as a gauge of character. Even though we today believe that one's behavior - in terms of "low" versus "high" class behavior - does not necessarily indicate who someone is, many characters in the play are often blinded to a character's behavior because of an assumption. For instance, Marlow and Hastings treat Hardcastle cruelly because they think him the landlord of an inn, and are confused by his behavior, which seems forward. The same behavior would have seemed appropriately high-class if they hadn't been fooled by Tony. Throughout the play, characters (especially Marlow) assume they understand someone's behavior when what truly guides them is their assumption of the other character's class.

Moderation

Throughout the play runs a conflict between the refined attitudes of town and the simple behaviors of the country. The importance of this theme is underscored by the fact that it is the crux of the opening disagreement between Hardcastle and his wife. Where country characters like Hardcastle see town manners as pretentious, town characters like Marlow see country manners as bumpkinish. The best course of action is proposed through Kate, who is praised by Marlow as having a "refined simplicity." Having lived in town, she is able to appreciate the values of both sides of life and can find happiness in appreciating the contradictions that exist between them.

Characters in She Stoops to Conquer

The characters in the play include:

- Mr. Hardcastle, husband of Mrs. Hardcastle, father of Kate, and stepfather to Tony Lumpkin, owner of the house; he wants to arrange a marriage between Kate and young Marlow.

- Mrs. Hardcastle, wife of Mr. Hardcastle, mother of Tony Lumpkin from her first marriage and of Kate with Mr. Hardcastle; she wants to arrange a marriage between Constance and her son, Tony.
- Kate Hardcastle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hardcastle; she pretends to be a barmaid and poor relation to encourage young Marlow to talk to her.
- Tony Lumpkin, son of Mrs. Hardcastle and her first husband
- Constance Neville, cousin of Kate Hardcastle and niece of Mrs. Hardcastle; she wants to marry Mr. Hastings, not Tony Lumpkin and has a dowry of valuable jewels.
- Charles Marlow, son of Sir Charles; he is a young man who is bashful around women of his own class.
- Mr. Hastings, friend of the young Charles Marlow; he is in love with Constance.
- Sir Charles Marlow, friend of Mr. Hardcastle, father of the young Charles Marlow.

She Stoops to Conquer by Oliver Goldsmith: Summary and Analysis

She Stoops to Conquer Summary

Act I

Act I introduces several characters in Goldsmith's amusing play. Mr. and Mrs. Hardcastle are a typical English upper-class couple. Mr. Hardcastle is content to live in the country, but Mrs. Hardcastle is portrayed as being shallow and misses the excitement of London society. Her son from her first marriage, Tony Lumpkin, enters and one quickly sees that he is a spoiled, immature young man who pulls pranks on the family and servants. His indulgent mother protects him while his stepfather, Mr. Hardcastle, is critical of him. Goldsmith reveals through his dialogue that Tony is interested only in the alehouse and the stables.

Kate is the next character to be introduced. Her father, Mr. Hardcastle, tells her of his plan to betroth her to the son of his friend, Sir Charles Marlow. Mr. Hardcastle describes the young Marlow as a scholar, servant of his country, generous, brave, young, handsome, bashful, and reserved. Kate is intrigued but also wary. Next enters Constance Neville, the cousin of Kate and niece of Mrs. Hardcastle. When Kate tells her of the arrival of the young Marlow, she is excited because he will be accompanied by Mr. Hastings, an admirer of hers. Constance wants to marry Mr. Hastings, but her aunt, Mrs. Hardcastle desires her to marry her son Tony, mainly because of the valuable jewels she would bring into the marriage and family as a dowry.

Act II

Act II begins with young Marlow and Mr. Hastings arriving, believing the house is an inn and Mr. Hardcastle is the innkeeper. Thus begins the many humorous misconceptions that the characters act upon. Marlow and Hastings try to have a private conversation and Mr. Hardcastle joins in, which they consider presumptuous and annoying in an innkeeper. Marlow and Hastings order dinner, which Mr. Hardcastle deems as rude and impudent for guests in his home. He is confused and appalled at their manners.

When Constance enters and speaks to Hastings alone, they are delighted to see each other and soon discover the misunderstanding. Hastings encourages her to continue Marlow's mistaken belief to further their own agenda. Kate enters; she and Marlow are introduced and Marlow immediately becomes a stuttering, bumbling mess of nerves in Kate's

Assistant professor: Maytham Ali

Dyala university

Coldge of basic education