

- 1- What was lost is found. The plays are festive in that they provide a resolution, yet they also provide the cognizance of loss.
- 2- The role of metamorphosis
- 3- Romance repairs the wreckage of time; it also requires the suspension of disbelief.
- 4- The thrust of danger is typical in romance.
- 5- In his last plays Sh is writing about the possibility of miracles.
- 6- The lesson of tragicomedy: We lose in order to recover something greater; we die in order to be reborn to a better life.
- 7- Romance inspires the capacity to wonder.
- 8- Romance solves problems through metamorphoses and recognition scenes in a marvelous way. Through illusions we come to understand reality. Despite fantastic elements, the play clarifies our view of reality.

### Important general themes and images:

- 1- The play is about memory, vengeance, transformations, and forgiveness.
- 2- Be aware of the place of water in the play as a cleansing agent.
- 3- Be aware of Prospero's roles in the play as a magician, a political figure, and a mortal, aging man.
- 4- Notice the aptness of chess as a metaphor in the play.

### Miscellaneous:

- 1- The theater and Westminster Abbey are where the people went to learn about history. Londoners did not study English or English history in school; instead, they knew Latin, Roman history, and classic poets. At coronation procession, James seen as the inheritor of Rome, the embodiment of classical order and authority. 255.
- 1 a.- Similarly, Sh's Roman plays -- JC, Coriolanus, A and C -- were stand-ins for English politics and issues that the audience would have appreciated.
- 2- There were three major theaters: the Rose, the Swan, and the Globe, plus many bear-baiting and cock-fighting sites outside the London town limits in the south end and across the river.
- 3- Sh concerned with the legitimacy of kings and queens.
- 4- Class matters: The uses of "you" and "thou" in Shakespearean parlance. (Re class, etc.)  
Legal strictures — requirements re the use of caps in England. -- social identity.  
The higher the hat, the higher the status: "high hat." See Ophelia's statement re Hamlet without a hat. Brown woolen hats were the emblem of males not of the aristocracy, both positively (and dangerously).
- 5a.- Sh is not propagandistic,
- 6- 1st purpose built theatre in England built in 1576 when Sh was 12 -- a new financial model. Unlike France, all classes in London attended. Plays were held in nobles' homes and public houses before. Theaters were built in wood not stone as in Rome -- they were open air. The like had not been built in 1000 years!
- 7- Tobacco smoke was regarded as a protection against the plague, as were treacle and gunpowder!!! One in five (at least 25000) people died of the plague in London!! IMPORTANT James postponed his coronation so as not to endanger the populace.