

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: The Winter's Tale

**EITHER (a)** What does Shakespeare's presentation of (NOT A CHOICE!) contribute to the play's meaning and effects?

**OR (b)** Paying close attention to language, tone and action, discuss the following passage and its significance in the play.

*Enter Autolycus, [wearing a false beard, ] singing.*

[AUTOLYCUS]	
<i>Lawn as white as driven snow,</i>	
<i>Cypress black as e'er was crow,</i>	255
<i>Gloves as sweet as damask roses,</i>	
<i>Masks for faces and for noses,</i>	
<i>Bugle bracelet, necklace amber,</i>	
<i>Perfume for a lady's chamber,</i>	
<i>Golden coifs and stomachers</i>	260
<i>For my lads to give their dears,</i>	
<i>Pins and poking-sticks of steel,</i>	
<i>What maids lack from head to heel,</i>	
<i>Come buy of me, come. Come buy, come buy.</i>	
<i>Buy, lads, or else your lasses cry.</i>	265
<i>Come buy.</i>	
SHEPHERD'S SON	
If I were not in love with Mopsa, thou	
shouldst take no money of me; but being enthralled	
as I am, it will also be the bondage of certain	
ribbons and gloves.	270
MOPSA	
I was promised them against the feast, but they	
come not too late now.	
DORCAS	
He hath promised you more than that, or there	
be liars.	
MOPSA	
He hath paid you all he promised you. Maybe	275
he has paid you more, which will shame you to give	
him again.	
SHEPHERD'S SON	
Is there no manners left among	
maids? Will they wear their plackets where they	
should bear their faces? Is there not milking time,	280
when you are going to bed, or kiln-hole, to whistle	
of these secrets, but you must be tittle-tattling	
before all our guests? 'Tis well they are whisp'ring.	
Clamor your tongues, and not a word more.	
MOPSA	
I have done. Come, you promised me a tawdry	285
lace and a pair of sweet gloves.	
SHEPHERD'S SON	
Have I not told thee how I was cozened	
by the way and lost all my money?	
AUTOLYCUS	
And indeed, sir, there are cozeners abroad;	
therefore it behooves men to be wary.	290
SHEPHERD'S SON	
Fear not thou, man. Thou shalt lose	
nothing here.	
AUTOLYCUS	
I hope so, sir, for I have about me many	
parcels of charge.	
SHEPHERD'S SON	
What hast here? Ballads?	295
MOPSA	
Pray now, buy some. I love a ballad in print	
alife, for then we are sure they are true.	
AUTOLYCUS	
Here's one to a very doleful tune, how a	
usurer's wife was brought to bed of twenty moneybags	
at a burden, and how she longed to eat adders'	300
heads and toads carbonadoed.	
MOPSA	
Is it true, think you?	
AUTOLYCUS	
Very true, and but a month old.	
DORCAS	
Bless me from marrying a usurer!	
AUTOLYCUS	
Here's the midwife's name to 't, one Mistress	305
Taleporter, and five or six honest wives that	
were present. Why should I carry lies abroad?	
MOPSA, [to Shepherd's Son]	
Pray you now, buy it.	
SHEPHERD'S SON, [to Autolycus]	
Come on, lay it by, and	
let's first see more ballads. We'll buy the other	310
things anon.	

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**ACT I**

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Scene 1

*Enter Camillo and Archidamus.*

ARCHIDAMUS	If you shall chance, Camillo, to visit Bohemia on the like occasion whereon my services are now on foot, you shall see, as I have said, great difference betwixt our Bohemia and your Sicilia.	
CAMILLO	I think this coming summer the King of Sicilia means to pay Bohemia the visitation which he justly owes him.	5
ARCHIDAMUS	Wherein our entertainment shall shame us; we will be justified in our loves. For indeed—	
CAMILLO	Beseech you—	10
ARCHIDAMUS	Verily, I speak it in the freedom of my knowledge. We cannot with such magnificence—in so rare—I know not what to say. We will give you sleepy drinks, that your senses, unintelligent of our insufficiency, may, though they cannot praise us, as little accuse us.	15
CAMILLO	You pay a great deal too dear for what's given freely.	
ARCHIDAMUS	Believe me, I speak as my understanding instructs me and as mine honesty puts it to utterance.	20
CAMILLO	Sicilia cannot show himself over-kind to Bohemia. They were trained together in their childhoods, and there rooted betwixt them then such an affection which cannot choose but branch now. Since their more mature dignities and royal necessities made separation of their society, their encounters, though not personal, hath been royally attorneyed with interchange of gifts, letters, loving embassies, that they have seemed to be together though absent, shook hands as over a vast, and embraced as it were from the ends of opposed winds. The heavens continue their loves.	25 30
ARCHIDAMUS	I think there is not in the world either malice or matter to alter it. You have an unspeakable comfort of your young Prince Mamillius. It is a gentleman of the greatest promise that ever came into my note.	35
CAMILLO	I very well agree with you in the hopes of him. It is a gallant child—one that indeed physics the subject, makes old hearts fresh. They that went on crutches ere he was born desire yet their life to see him a man.	40
ARCHIDAMUS	Would they else be content to die?	
CAMILLO	Yes, if there were no other excuse why they should desire to live.	45
ARCHIDAMUS	If the King had no son, they would desire to live on crutches till he had one.	

*They exit.*