

# Women's Lib?

"I will be master of what is mine own,  
She is my goods, my chattels; she is my house,  
My household-stuff, my field, my barn,  
My horse, my ox, my ass, my anything,  
And here she stands."

"These are the most unpleasant words Shakespeare ever wrote", said one student. Do you agree? To explore your reactions to Petruchio's lines, complete the following activities:

1. Male students kneel. Female students chant the lines at them, substituting "he" for "she".
2. In pairs. One student reads, pausing at each punctuation mark. The other says at each pause: "Oh no I'm not, because..." (Give reasons)
3. A volunteer, as Petruchio, stands in a circle of students and reads, trying to convince all the others who heckle his reading.
4. Experiment with different styles of speaking the lines, for example: as a formal lecture, as a ranting politician, as a comedian. Can you find a style to fit the language?
5. Substitute modern items (TV set, car, etc.) for Petruchio's nouns.
6. Is there any danger of these lines being taken seriously? Are they, after all, just a joke?
7. Organize a class debate on the theme: "Petruchio is simply a male chauvinist pig."