

Durga Mahavidyalaya, RAIPUR CG Department of English B.A. Semester I

Course Code: ENGE-01

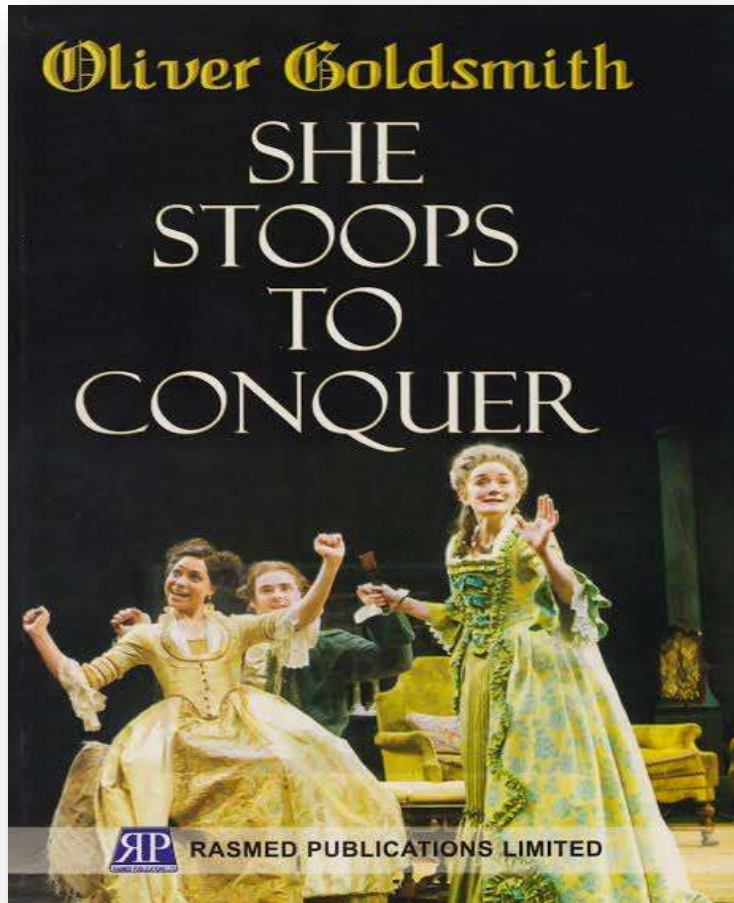
Title: Introduction to the Study of English Literature

Course Title: B A. Semester Unit I, Section A

Dr Sanjukta Roy

SHE STOOP'S TO CONQUER

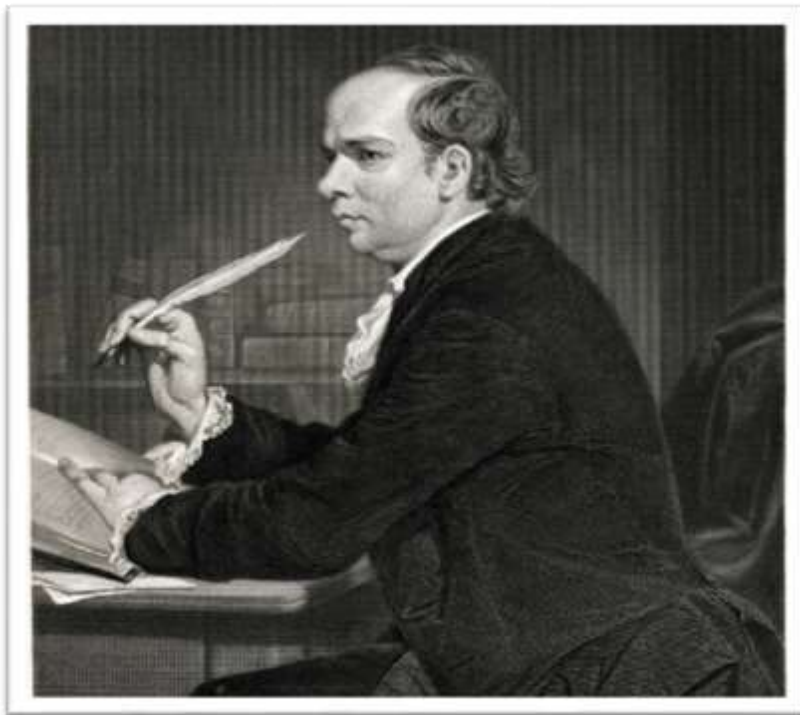
- Oliver's Goldsmith



-BY

DR. SANJUKTA ROY

OLIVER's GOLDSMITH



(10 November 1728 – 4 April 1774)

- 
- Oliver Goldsmith was Born on 10 November 1728 in Ireland either Ballymahon, County Longford, or Elphin, County Roscommon, Ireland
 - Oliver Goldsmith (10 November 1728 – 4 April 1774) was an Anglo-Irish poet, novelist, playwright, and hack writer.
 - He died in 1774 in London at the age of 45, and was buried in Temple Church.
 - His works are known for their realistic depiction of society, and his comedy plays for the English stage are considered second in importance only to those of William Shakespeare.

INTRODUCTION

- "SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER" is one of the best plays to be written during the restoration era. Goldsmith's she stoops to conquer is still part of the comic play than 200 years, providing a combination of good- humoured comedy and satire c affections.
- The play was first performed at Convent Garden Theatre in London on March 15,1773.
- It's known for broad humour , innocent wit, and frank good nature. It was well received by the audience.
- This comic masterpiece mocked the simple morality of sentimental comedies.
- t has become one of the most popular comedies in English Literary History.
- Set in rural England, "She Stoops to Conquer" follows the adventure young Charles Marlow and his friend George Hastings as they journ the Hardcastle residence, intending to meet Kate Hardcastle, Charles's prospective bride.

- 
- However, due to a series of misunderstandings, Marlow mistakes Hardcastle home for an inn, and his behavior towards Kate and her family is notably different from his usual aristocratic manner.
 - The title "She Stoops to Conquer" refers to Kate's ingenious plan to win over Marlow's affections by pretending to be a barmaid and adopting a more humble demeanor.
 - Through this deception, Kate hopes to overcome Marlow's shyness and reluctance to women of higher social status.
 - Goldsmith's play is renowned for its sharp wit and comedic situations, which arise from the misunderstandings and miscommunications between the characters.
 - The play satirizes various aspects of 18th-century society, including class distinction pretensions, and the complexities of courtship and marriage.
 - In addition to its comic elements, "She Stoops to Conquer" also contains themes of love, identity, and the contrast between appearance and reality.
 - The play's enduring popularity lies in its timeless humor, lively characters, and universal themes, which continue to resonate with audiences centuries after its initial performance.

CHARACTER's

"She Stoops to Conquer" features a colorful cast of characters, each contributing to the plays humors ,wit, social commentary.

- **Kate Hardcastle:** The intelligent and spirited daughter of Mr. Hardcastle. Kate is the object of Charles Marlow's a... is determined to win his heart despite his initial shyness.
- **Charles Marlow:** The young gentleman who is set to meet Kate Hardcastle with the intention of courtship. Mark bred but awkward and shy around women of his own class.
- **Tony Lumpkin:** The mischievous stepson of Mrs. Hardcastle. Tony is a prankster and enjoys causing trouble for hi visitors. He plays a significant role in the plot's various misunderstandings.
- **Mr. Hardcastle:** Kate's father and the owner of the Hardcastle estate. Mr. Hardcastle is a hospitable but somewhat old-fashioned country squire who is perplexed by Marlow's behavior.

- 
- **Mrs. Hardcastle:** Tony's mother and Mr. Hardcastle's second wife. Mrs. Hardcastle is vain, materialistic, and often at odds with her stepdaughter Kate.
 - **George Hastings:** Charles Marlow's friend and fellow suitor. Hastings is a charming and resourceful young man who assists Marlow in his romantic pursuits.
 - **Miss Constance Neville:** A young lady who is under Mrs. Hardcastle's guardianship. Constance is secretly in love with Hastings and schemes to escape Mrs. Hardcastle's control.
 - **Diggory:** A servant at the Hardcastle residence. Diggory is a comic character who adds to the play's humor with his rustic mannerisms and malapropisms.

Summary –

ACT 1

- At the home of the Hardcastle family, Mr. Hardcastle expresses to his wife, Dorothy Hardcastle, that he does not like new things. While she admires the new fashions from London, he prefers old-fashioned clothes, values, and manners. Mrs. Hardcastle complains that their house is so old that it looks like an inn. Mr. Hardcastle affectionately tells her that he also prefers old wives. Mrs. Hardcastle claims she is not as old as he says—57—because her son, Tony Lumpkin, has not come of age yet. Tony Lumpkin is her child from her first marriage and she worries that he is sickly and likely to die young from consumption, therefore he has had no formal schooling. Mr. Hardcastle, however, points out that he is actually a rowdy young man who likes to play pranks and drink with lower-class people at the local tavern.
- Miss Kate Hardcastle, the daughter of the family, enters the room dressed in modern fashion. Mr. Hardcastle dislikes her clothing, claiming it looks too French, but she promises to uphold a bargain where she will dress as she likes during the day, but put on old-fashioned clothing at night for dinner.

ACT 11

- Mr. Hardcastle instructs his servants on how to behave towards their guests. Most of them are not aware of proper behavior, being lower-class workers taken from their usual jobs at the stables or farms. Marlow and Hastings arrive at the house, still believing it to be an inn. Hastings mentions that Marlow is known to have problems talking to women of high social status, while he is very flirtatious and bold with lower-class women. Marlow admits that he becomes very nervous around women whom he actually admires due to his lack of experience interacting with them, which is why he would prefer to marry with no courtship. He tells Hastings that he is lucky that Constance and her late father both approved of him
-
- The men are welcomed into the house by Mr. Hardcastle, who attempts to tell them old war stories. However, Marlow and Hastings interrupt and ignore Mr. Hardcastle, whom they still presume to be an innkeeper. They demand punch and ask to change the dinner menu, which shocks Mr. Hardcastle. He thinks they are extremely impudent, ascribing their rude behavior to modern manners, while Marlow and Hastings are perplexed by Mr. Hardcastle's strange over-familiarity and talkativeness.

ACT 111

- Mr. Hardcastle and his daughter compare their first impressions of Marlow. While Mr. Hardcastle finds him shockingly brazen and disrespectful, Kate describes him as bashful, timid, and unassuming. They realize that one of them must be wrong, since their experiences have been so different. She has put on a more plain and modest dress, as her father requests that she does in the evening.
- Meanwhile, Tony seeks out Constance's jewels and steals them from his mother's bureau. He tells Hastings he has them ready, but Constance is still pleading with Mrs. Hardcastle to let her wear them. Mrs. Hardcastle claims that young women do not need jewelry to augment their beauty and can rely on their natural looks. She tells Tony to pretend that the jewels have gone missing if Constance asks about them again. Tony privately informs Constance that he has stolen the jewels already. Mrs. Hardcastle returns from her chambers, distraught that the jewels are really missing. Tony tricks her, acting as though he believes it to be the ruse she told him about, and playing along with the narrative that the jewels are missing. She is frustrated by her inability to convey that this is a real problem.

ACT 1V

- Hastings informs Constance that everything is ready for their departure and that Marlow is keeping track of the jewels since he has the keys to their luggage. He has learned that Sir Charles Marlow is coming soon, following his son, and so Hastings needs to leave before he is recognized. Constance decides to go and play a prank on her aunt while they wait where she will confess her love for Tony Lumpkin.
- However, when Hastings asks Marlow where he put the jewels, Marlow tells him that he gave them to the “landlady” for safekeeping. Hastings realizes that Mrs. Hardcastle now has the jewels again and thinks that their disappearance was a mistake by the servants, but he tries not to show his distress to keep up the joke. Marlow mentions his attraction to the “bar maid”—actually Kate Hardcastle—and claims that he intends to sleep with her.
- Mr. Hardcastle confronts Marlow about his bad behavior, complaining that all of his servants are drunk. Marlow protests that he told his servants to get as drunk as possible, believing that the landlord of an inn would want him to pay for a lot of food and drink.

ACT V

- Hastings learns that Mrs. Hardcastle has left to take Constance back to her aunt's house. Sir Charles Marlow arrives and he and Mr. Hardcastle laugh about Marlow's misunderstanding and humiliating behavior. Mr. Hardcastle mentions that Marlow did seem to be very fond of his daughter, suggesting that the arranged marriage will work well. Marlow, however, protests, claiming that he only met Kate Hardcastle once and did not enjoy the conversation very much. He leaves and Kate enters, telling her father and Sir Charles to hide behind a screen, as she will show them Marlow professing his love to her shortly.
- Tony returns from driving his mother and Constance, but he has actually brought them right back home. Mrs. Hardcastle is confused by the dark, thinking herself forty miles away. Tony sees Mr. Hardcastle coming and pretends that he is a highway robber, telling his mother to hide. However, when Mr. Hardcastle sees his wife, he reveals the trick. Mrs. Hardcastle is angry at Tony, but he replies that she is getting what she deserves for spoiling him. Mr. Hardcastle agrees.
- Hastings tries to persuade Constance to go through with their elopement, but she has decided it is better to wait and try to obtain her fortune rather than continuing to deceive everyone.



THEME OF THE PLAY

- Class
- Money
- Behaviour
- Appearances and reality
- Moderation
- Comedy
- Truth and falsehood
- Hope for flawed humanity
- Deceit / Trickery



THANK YOU