MACMILLAN MASTER GUIDES

SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER
BY OLIVER GOLDSMITH

MACMILLAN MASTER GUIDES

General Editor: James Gibson

Published:

JANE AUSTEN: **PRIDE AND PREJUDICE** Raymond Wilson

EMMA Norman Page

MANSFIELD PARK Richard Wirdnam

ROBERT BOLT: **A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS** Leonard Smith

EMILY BRONTË: **WUTHERING HEIGHTS** Hilda D. Spear

GEOFFREY CHAUCER: **THE PROLOGUE TO THE CANTERBURY**

TALES Nigel Thomas and Richard Swan

CHARLES DICKENS: **GREAT EXPECTATIONS** Dennis Butts

HARD TIMES Norman Page

GEORGE ELIOT: **MIDDLEMARCH** Graham Handley

SILAS MARNER Graham Handley

OLIVER GOLDSMITH: **SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER** Paul Ranger

THOMAS HARDY: **FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD**

Colin Temblett-Wood

CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE: **DOCTOR FAUSTUS** David A. Male

GEORGE ORWELL: **ANIMAL FARM** Jean Armstrong

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: **MACBETH** David Elloway

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Kenneth Pickering

ROMEO AND JULIET Helen Morris

THE WINTER'S TALE Diana Devlin

Forthcoming:

GEOFFREY CHAUCER: **THE MILLER'S TALE** Michael Alexander

T. S. ELIOT: **MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL** Paul Lapworth

E. M. FORSTER: **A PASSAGE TO INDIA** Hilda D. Spear

WILLIAM GOLDING: **THE SPIRE** Rosemary Sumner

THOMAS HARDY: **TESS OF THE D'URBERVILLES** James Gibson

HARPER LEE: **TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD** Jean Armstrong

THE METAPHYSICAL POETS Joan van Emden

ARTHUR MILLER: **THE CRUCIBLE** Leonard Smith

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW **ST JOAN** Leonee Ormond

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: **HAMLET** Jean Brooks

HENRY IV PART ONE Helen Morris

JULIUS CAESAR David Elloway

KING LEAR Francis Casey

OTHELLO Christopher Beddowes

TWELFTH NIGHT Edward Leeson

RICHARD SHERIDAN: **THE RIVALS** Jeremy Rowe

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL Paul Ranger

JOHN WEBSTER: **THE DUCHESS OF MALFI/THE WHITE DEVIL**

David A. Male

Also published by Macmillan

MACMILLAN MASTER SERIES

Mastering English Literature R. Gill

Mastering English Language S. H. Burton

Mastering English Grammar S. H. Burton

MACMILLAN MASTER GUIDES

SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER

BY OLIVER GOLDSMITH

PAUL RANGER

M
MACMILLAN

© Paul Ranger 1985

All rights reserved. No reproduction, copy or transmission of this publication may be made without written permission.

No paragraph of this publication may be reproduced, copied or transmitted save with written permission or in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright Act 1956 (as amended).

Any person who does any unauthorised act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.

First edition 1985

Published by
MACMILLAN EDUCATION LTD
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2XS
and London
Companies and representatives
throughout the world

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
Ranger, Paul

She stoops to conquer by Oliver Goldsmith. –
(Macmillan master guides)

1. Goldsmith, Oliver. *She stoops to conquer*
I. Title II. Goldsmith, Oliver. *She stoops*
to conquer

822'.6 PR3488

ISBN 978-0-333-38362-9

ISBN 978-1-349-07664-2 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-07664-2

CONTENTS

<i>General editor's preface</i>		vii
1 The theatrical context	1.1 The eighteenth-century patent houses	1
	1.2 The page on the stage	3
	1.3 Staging as a study method	5
2 Oliver Goldsmith: life and background	2.1 Youthful days	9
	2.2 Goldsmith the writer	11
	2.3 Demise and remembrance	14
3 Summaries and critical commentary	3.1 Synopsis	16
	3.2 Summaries and commentary	17
4 Themes and issues	4.1 An overview of the chapter	35
	4.2 The Georgian repertoire	36
	4.3 Sentimental comedy	37
	4.4 Disaffection for sentimental comedy	40
	4.5 Literary devices in the play	43
	4.6 A mirror of the times	47
	4.7 Tailpiece	50
5 Technical features	5.1 The form and structure of the play	51
	5.2 The unity of the play	53
	5.3 The principal characters	54
	5.4 Language	66
6 An examination of two selected passages	6.1 The encounters	69
	6.2 A parody of sensibility	70
	6.3 A contrasting encounter	74
7 The critical reception	7.1 The first performance	80
	7.2 The critical response	81
	7.3 Establishment in the repertoire	82
	7.4 The revival at the National Theatre	83
<i>Revision questions</i>		86
<i>Further reading</i>		88

GENERAL EDITOR'S PREFACE

The aim of the Macmillan Master Guides is to help you to appreciate the book you are studying by providing information about it and by suggesting ways of reading and thinking about it which will lead to a fuller understanding. The section on the writer's life and background has been designed to illustrate those aspects of the writer's life which have influenced the work, and to place it in its personal and literary context. The summaries and critical commentary are of special importance in that each brief summary of the action is followed by an examination of the significant critical points. The space which might have been given to repetitive explanatory notes has been devoted to a detailed analysis of the kind of passage which might confront you in an examination. Literary criticism is concerned with both the broader aspects of the work being studied and with its detail. The ideas which meet us in reading a great work of literature, and their relevance to us today, are an essential part of our study, and our Guides look at the thought of their subject in some detail. But just as essential is the craft with which the writer has constructed his work of art, and this is considered under several technical headings – characterisation, language, style and stagecraft.

The authors of these Guides are all teachers and writers of wide experience, and they have chosen to write about books they admire and know well in the belief that they can communicate their admiration to you. But you yourself must read and know intimately the book you are studying. No one can do that for you. You should see this book as a lamp-post. Use it to shed light, not to lean against. If you know your text and know what it is saying about life, and how it says it, then you will enjoy it, and there is no better way of passing an examination in literature.

JAMES GIBSON

Cover illustration: *She Stoops to Conquer* by Thomas Parkinson.

© Robertson Davies Collection.