**Title:** The Taming of the Shrew: Wit and Wager in 15 Minutes

**Cast:** 5 Actors (ages 12–14)

**Doubling Roles:**

* **Actor 1:** Petruchio / Narrator
* **Actor 2:** Katherina (Kate) / Merchant
* **Actor 3:** Bianca / Grumio
* **Actor 4:** Lucentio / Baptista
* **Actor 5:** Hortensio / Servant

**Setting:** Padua and Petruchio’s house. Use labeled blocks, simple costume pieces (hats, shawls), and a lute or book as props.

**[Prologue – Narrator center stage.]**

**NARRATOR (A1):**  
In fair Padua, two sisters dwell—  
One mild and sweet, the other… not so well.  
Katherina’s tongue is sharp as swords,  
And men all fear her fiery words.  
But one bold man, with wit and pride,  
Vows to win her—and tame her wild ride.

*(Lights shift. Enter KATE and BIANCA arguing.)*

**Scene 1: The Sisters and Suitors**

**KATE (A2):**  
Why should Bianca get all the praise? I speak my mind!

**BIANCA (A3):**  
Sister, must you shout at everyone?

**HORTENSIO (A5):**  
I'd marry Bianca—but her father says she can’t wed until Kate does.

**LUCENTIO (A4):**  
Then we need someone daring enough to marry Kate first!

**GRUMIO (A3):**  
Enter Petruchio—bold, loud, and not afraid of anything!

**Scene 2: The First Meeting**

**PETRUCHIO (A1):**  
Good morrow, Kate—for that’s your name, I hear.

**KATE (A2):**  
You hear wrong. I’m not for sale or wooing.

**PETRUCHIO:**  
Your wit is as sharp as your tongue. But I come to woo you still.

**KATE:**  
Then you come to lose.

**PETRUCHIO:**  
We shall see, for I’m as stubborn as you are.

**NARRATOR:**  
Though she fights, he insists. He vows to marry her, ready or not.

**Scene 3: The Wedding and the Taming**

**KATE:**  
He arrives late, in rags, and drags me away like a beast!

**PETRUCHIO:**  
Taming means teaching. She’ll eat when she’s kind, sleep when she’s gentle.

**SERVANT (A5):**  
He calls her fair when she scowls, and sweet when she storms!

**KATE:**  
Is he mad… or just clever?

**Scene 4: Return to Padua**

**BAPTISTA (A4):**  
All are wed! Now, whose wife is most obedient?

**HORTENSIO:**  
Surely not Kate.

**PETRUCHIO:**  
Let’s see. Kate, come here!

*(Everyone waits. KATE enters calmly.)*

**KATE:**  
I come, for duty to my husband is not shameful—but wise.

**NARRATOR:**  
A change? Perhaps. Or maybe Kate has learned to play the game.

**[Epilogue – Narrator center stage.]**

**NARRATOR (A1):**  
So ends our tale of wit and fight—  
Where both sides learned, and found delight.  
Tamed or teamed? You now must choose.  
In love, it seems, both win—and lose.

**[Lights fade. Curtain.]**