**PYGMALION THROUGH THE AGES**

READ THE OVID MYTH (SUMMARY) <https://www.cummingsstudyguides.net/Guides3/pygmalion.html>

Or <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pygmalion_(mythology)>

**Source: Ovid – *Metamorphoses***

**Excerpt:** “He kisses her white lips, renews the bliss,   
 And looks, and thinks they redden at the kiss…”

**Themes:**

* Man shapes woman
* Man shapes himself in the process
* Love is the final transformation

**PYGMALION PLOT – Summary**

* Professor of **phonetics** Henry Higgins makes a bet with his friend Colonel Pickering that he can train a poor **Cockney** flower girl, Eliza Doolittle, to pass for a **duchess** at an ambassador's garden party by teaching her impeccable speech.
* During the course of Eliza’s education, Higgins uses his knowledge of the English language to shape Eliza’s individual identity as well as affirm her place in several different collective identities.
* Eliza’s identity evolves and transforms into a new form that provides her with independence and self-respect while simultaneously creating feelings of emotional isolation and cultural confusion.
* Shaw’s **didactic** purpose is both to critique and **satirise** the rigid **British class system** of the day as well as offer commentary on women’s emerging independence at the turn of the 20th Century.

**TASK: Discover the definitions for the words in bold.**

## **OVID’S PYGMALION IMAGES**

 

**FILM APPROPRIATIONS**

**TRAILER #1: PRETTY WOMAN - From Prostitute to Princess**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3Y16is7DNA**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3Y16is7DNA)

**TRAILER #2: SHE’S ALL THAT –From Geeky to Gorgeous**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kI9fYsgduGE**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kI9fYsgduGE)

**TRAILER #3: DUFF – Confidence growth**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ci7eKlNRiuw**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ci7eKlNRiuw)

**TRAILER #4: MY FAIR LADY – the film version of Pygmalion**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=86JALxpEFEc**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=86JALxpEFEc)

Consider:

**WHAT ARE THE SHARED?**

CHARACTERS

LANGUAGE

IDEAS

EXPERIENCES

CULTURES

TRANSFORMTAIONS

IDENTITIES

GENRE