

Mangled Works

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Difficulty: Medium

"Our favorite family works can't survive without some spikey-haired brat coming along and mangling everything. Just begin looking at what was changed, you'll see it adds up to something big."

-- Lyle Lanley, December 17, 1989

1. A big deal about so little
2. One who teaches serfs Salsa or the Waltz
3. ♀ and ♀
4. Pumps blood in the pitch black
5. Section of MOMA devoted to WWI and Vietnam
6. The PC wore Nikes
7. Gary gets tomorrow's news today.
8. Mrs. Pinkett's husband went on tour to Seattle
9. Sharon and Susan trick Mom and Dad
10. \$1 million for a night with Demi
11. Sisko and his eight pals
12. This bunch is angry it was turned into wine

You are given a fake quote and then a list of clues. The quote is fake but points to the Simpsons (“our favorite family,” “spikey-haired brat,” Lyle Lanley, and December 17 1989 – the first episode’s air date.) It also hints at mangling works, as does the title of the puzzle. The clues all give the title of some work, each of which has been mangled and become an episode title for the Simpsons. The capitalized word is what has been changed, followed in parentheses by what it was changed to in the title.

much ADO about nothing (Apu)
LORD of the dance (Lard)
PRINCE and the pauper (Principal)
HEART of darkness (Bart)
the ART of war (Bart)
the computer wore TENNIS shoes (Menace)
EARLY edition (Girlie)
mr .SMITH goes to Washington (Lisa *or* Spritz)
the parent TRAP (Rap)
INDECENT proposal (Half-Decent)
deep space NINE (Homer)
the GRAPES of wrath (Crepes)

The final phrase of the quote gives the final part needed for the answer, “Just begin looking at what was changed, you'll see it adds up to something big.” *What was changed* refers to the words that have changed from the original titles, *begin looking* implies to look at the first letter, and *adds up to something big* implies to put them all together. This gives us our solution, “ALPHATESTING.”

Hints:

- If you don’t recognize the symbol in item 3, you might instead know what the artist was formerly known as.
- Does the quote make you think of anything in particular? If not, try looking up pieces of it.
- What do the titles have to do with the work referenced in the quote?