



ELA Virtual Learning

English 218 Introduction to Literature

Lesson: April 30, 2020



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Objective/Learning Target:

- Read and comprehend literature, including drama, independently and proficiently.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings using context, affixes, or reference materials.
 - Read and comprehend informational text independently and proficiently.



Bell Ringer:

You have read a little about the life of William Shakespeare. He lived over 400 years ago, in England. In what ways do you think writing a play was different then than it is now?

****Start a document to record your response to this and the work which follows on later slides.**

Learn

Comedy is a story, so many elements of comedy are the same as any other story, such as plot, character, setting, conflict, and theme. Because it is meant to be performed, there are other elements, such as costumes, props and stage direction. In the case of Shakespeare, there are other interesting elements, such as monologues and soliloquies. In addition, Shakespeare was inclined to experiment with themes of gender and discrimination, even in his comedies.

As other writers do, Shakespeare uses dialogue to move along the plot, develop a theme and in characterization. In addition, he utilizes the monologue quite a bit. A monologue is a long and often tedious speech made by one character, generally to other characters or even to the audience. When spoken to the audience, we say that character is breaking the fourth wall.

Learn

The fourth wall in drama is an imaginary wall between the audience and the players, with the assumption the audience sees through it, but the players cannot. Shakespeare loved breaking the fourth wall, as seen in this well-known piece of a monologue from his romantic comedy, *Twelfth Night*.

“If music be the food of love, play on,

Give me excess of it; that surfeiting,

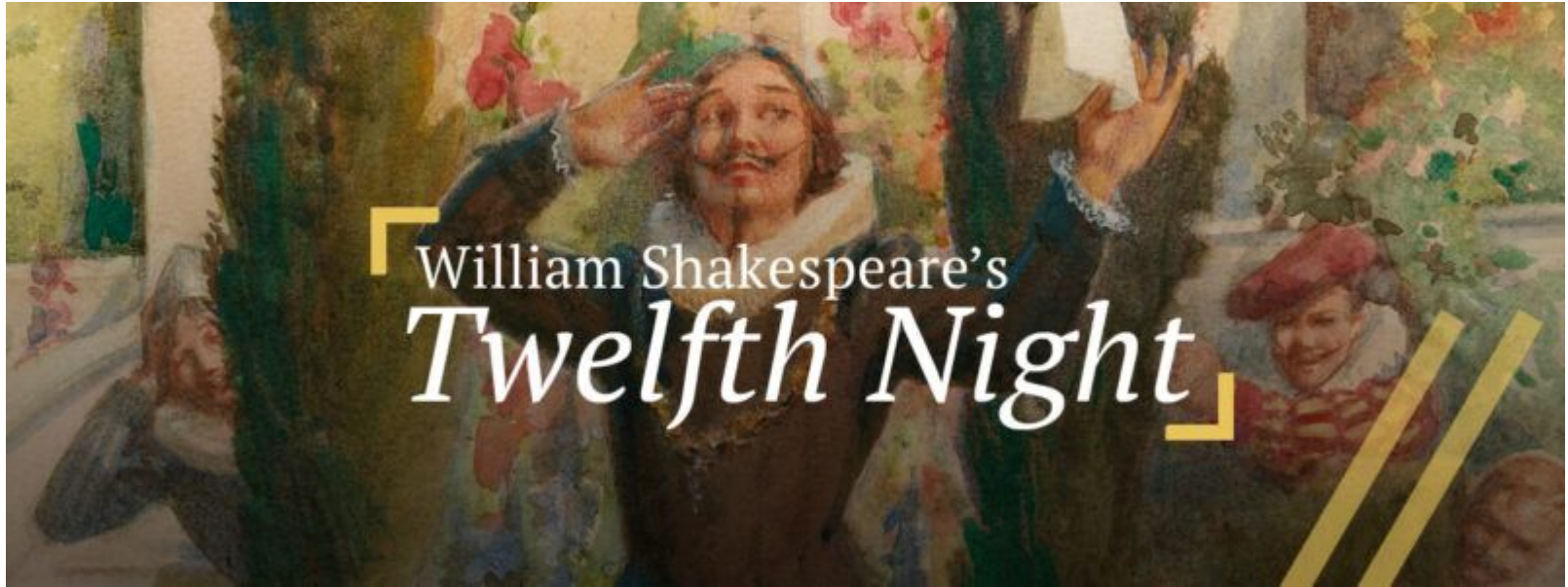
The appetite may sicken, and so die.” *Duke Orsino (act 1, scene 1)*

Orsino has turned to the audience here, addressing them directly as he intones on the subject of unrequited love. It goes on a bit...15 lines.

Learn

That quote is a good example of the type of monologue we will find in the play we are reading over the next couple of weeks, because it is from Act 1, Scene 1 of our play - *Twelfth Night*. This play is a romantic comedy done in Shakespeare's inimitable style, with all of his special touches.

The title is an allusion to the Christian festival on the night before the Epiphany. Generally on the 5th or 6th of January, depending on interpretation, it is the last day of the Twelve Days of Christmas. See the last slide for a resource to learn more about that.



On the [Folger](#) website, open the page on this play and browse through that page, but not yet the play itself. Read the synopsis of each act on the left and just look to see what is available on the right. We will be using some of this as we move through the play.

Learn - Watch and Read

Now that you have familiarized yourself some with Shakespeare's life, the Folger Shakespeare materials, and the synopsis of the play, it's time to start reading. We will use the pdf of the play available from the Folger website, so all page numbers will relate to this version. It is not very long, so we will easily read it in two weeks, including discussion and assignments.

As you read the play, do read slowly, using punctuation to guide your pacing and pauses. Shakespeare cannot be rushed. Before you begin, here is an example of what reading Shakespeare should sound like, explained well in this video: "[How to Read Shakespeare](#)". The video is good and only about four minutes long.

Please read from the beginning (some background and introduction) through page 9 of the pdf, which is all of Scenes 1 and 2 of Act 1 of [*Twelfth Night*](#).

Practice:

Twelfth Night - Act 1, Scenes 1 and 2 - respond to the following questions in full sentences; typically only one or two sentences will be sufficient.

1. What does it mean to “break the fourth wall”? What effect do you think this has on the reader or audience?
2. The play opens with Orsino’s first monologue. Summarize what he is saying about love in just one full sentence. Be sure to look up unfamiliar words, such as “surfeiting” and “abatement” if context clues alone are not enough.
3. Who does Orsino pine for and why will she not consider him?
4. Why does the Captain think Viola’s brother may still be alive? Respond by quoting the lines.
5. What does Viola mean by, “I’ll serve this duke./ Thou shalt present me as an eunuch to him.” (Shakespeare 1.2. 58-59) **Notice this in-text citation style.

Response Criteria

(Answers will Vary)

- Check your written response to make sure it meets the following criteria:
 - Did you write in complete sentences?
 - Did you use standard conventions (spelling, punctuation, grammar)?
 - Did you answer the questions?
 - Did you use MLA formatting in all things, including a proper MLA header?

Sample Appropriate Response:

Bellringer - Responses will vary, but may refer to not having technology, relationships being different, or the different gender roles of that time.

Practice: Responses are on the following slides.

Examples of Quality Responses

1. **What does it mean to “break the fourth wall”? What effect do you think this has on the reader or audience?** This refers to an actor speaking to the audience (or reader) directly. This could have the effect of making the audience or reader feel a connection to the actor/character.
2. **The play opens with Orsino’s first monologue. Summarize what he is saying about love in just one full sentence. Be sure to look up unfamiliar words, such as “surfeiting” and “abatement” if context clues alone are not enough.** Orsino is saying he wants to be overwhelmed by music (which invokes love) so he will be sick of it, because he loves someone who does not return that love.

Examples of Quality Responses

3. **Who does Orsino pine for and why will she not consider him?** He pines for Olivia, but since her brother's death, she has vowed not to look at any man for seven years.

4. **Why does the Captain think Viola's brother may still be alive?** Respond by quoting the lines. "I saw your brother,/ ...bind himself/ .../To a strong mast that lived upon the sea," (1.2.12-15) **Notice you do not have to include wording which does not contribute. The slashes go in to show the end of a line of verse.

5. **What does Viola mean by, "I'll serve this duke./ Thou shalt present me as an eunuch to him."** (Shakespeare 1.2, 58-59) She wants to go work for the duke and asks the Captain to introduce her as a eunuch - a castrated male.

Resources

The title of our play comes from a Christian festival which follows Christmas and has different meanings for different branches of Christianity. If you want to learn more about the meaning of this festive occasion (and how the play got its name) read this article from a British online newspaper: [Twelfth Night Explained](#).