



ELA Virtual Learning

English 218 Introduction to Literature

Lesson: May 4, 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.



Bell Ringer:

By now, there should be one or two themes evident to you, though they are not fully developed, of course. What is one theme you see being built?

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

Learn

Development of theme in a play is much like in a novel. The author may employ any of the literary elements, such as characterization or conflict. In the last part of our reading of Act 1, Scene 4, we saw Viola disguise herself as a man named Cesario to gain employment with Duke Orsino. Hopefully you took time to wonder why she had to disguise herself; I'm sure there were female servants during that time. It is likely, though, that a man of Orsino's status would not have had female servants who were close to him - only male.

Here, the reader starts to see a favorite theme of Shakespeare's - appearance vs. reality. Shakespeare often disguised his characters, sometimes by simply adding a mask, but sometimes going to greater lengths, like disguising a female as a male or vice versa-but most often a girl or woman is dressed as a boy or man. Consider why this was common.

Learn - theme development

At the very beginning of Scene 4, we are given a hint about why Viola disguises herself. On lines 1-2, Valentine comments, “If the Duke continue these favors towards/you, Cesario, you are like to be much advanced.” (1.4) If Viola was known to be a woman, it is highly unlikely she would be “much advanced” or “in” with the Duke. This also alludes to another theme of gender roles and how they are limiting. It seems even Shakespeare was aware of that.

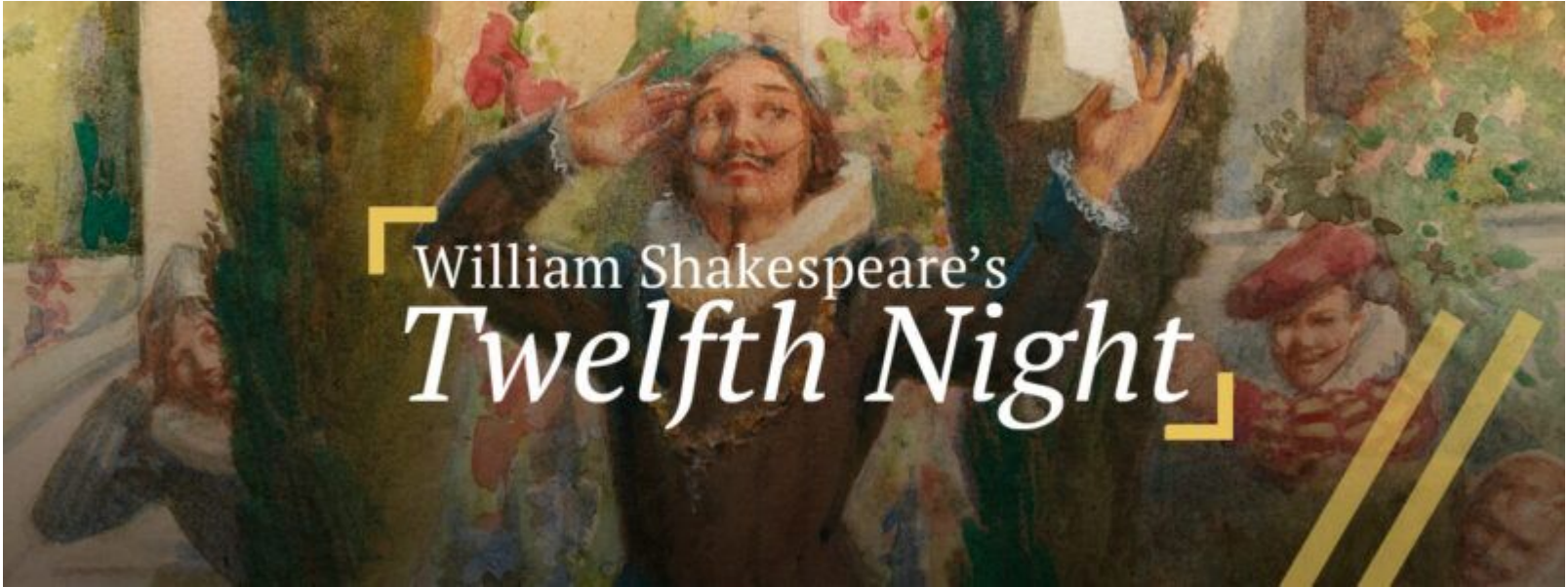
In this short amount of reading, we see how themes can be developed using characters - character qualities, character actions and how characters respond to situations may all relate to **theme**. By the end we will also see Shakespeare’s masterful development of theme using character development - the ways characters change, and the lessons they learn.

Learn - Shakespeare's methods

There is one more thing to note before we move on in the reading. At the very end of Act 1, Scene 4, the reader sees a quick “aside”. This is another way playwrights break the fourth wall. Here, the audience (were this a play being watched) would see the actor turn away from having dialogue with someone and speak directly to the audience - usually for just a line or two - as a way to show his/her inner thoughts or motivations.

Viola: To woo your lady. [*Aside*] Yet a barful strife!/Whoe'er I woo, myself would be his wife (1.4.45-46).

Speaking first to Orsino, as Cesario, she then turns to speak to the audience as herself and tells us something very important - that she plans to be Orsino's wife! Her disguise now takes on new meaning. Consider that.



Please continue your reading of *Twelfth Night*, beginning on page 26 of the book, reading all of Act 1, Scene 5 through page 45. Remember, these are now book page numbers - not pdf page numbers.

Practice:

Twelfth Night - Act 1, Scene 5 - respond to the following questions in full sentences; typically only one or two sentences will be sufficient.

1. Going back to the last line of Scene 4, in Viola's aside, what important turn of event did we learn about and how will that influence the theme of appearance vs. reality?
2. In Scene 5, we meet the Fool who is supposed to amuse Lady Olivia. Maria spends a good part of this scene berating him for not being very good at his job; yet, he says something really funny. "Many a good hanging prevents a bad marriage," (1.5. 19). This is an aphorism. What is an aphorism and what he is saying with this one?
3. Look up and write a short definition for the following words: syllogism, misprision, catechize, and mollification.

Practice:

4. Following some back and forth between Olivia and Viola (disguised as Cesario), Olivia sends him/her away, but tells Malvolio to run after him/her to return a ring and give him a message, which includes, “If that the youth will come this way tomorrow, /I’ll give him reasons for ‘t” (1.5. 312-313). This line indicates she wants Viola/Cesario to return. Why would that be? The answer is partly found in the short soliloquy that follows it on lines 315-318. (We will talk more about soliloquies tomorrow).

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 reference unrequited love or restrictions of gender roles.

Practice: Possible responses are on the following slides.

Examples of Quality Responses

1. Going back to the last line of Scene 4, in Viola's aside, what important turn of event did we learn about and how will that influence the theme of appearance vs. reality? **Response:** Viola wants to marry Orsino. She is working for him disguised as a man, so that will complicate this goal. On the one hand, she can get closer to him and manage his courting of Olivia; on the other hand, he will know her as a man, so it is unlikely he will return her feelings.
2. In Scene 5, we meet the Fool who is supposed to amuse Lady Olivia. Maria spends a good part of this scene berating him for not being very good at his job; yet, he says something really funny. "Many a good hanging prevents a bad marriage," (1.5. 19). This is an aphorism. What is an aphorism and what he is saying with this one? **Response:** An aphorism is a short, pithy (biting) observation that contains a grain of truth. The Fool has been <jokingly> threatened with hanging and is observing one advantage which could come of that: he would avoid a bad marriage.

Examples of Quality Responses

3. Look up and write a short definition for the following words: syllogism, misprision, catechize, and mollification. **Response:** You can get these from any good online dictionary.

4....This line indicates she wants Viola/Cesario to return. Why would that be? The answer is partly found in the short soliloquy that follows it on lines 315-318. **Response:** In the soliloquy, Olivia says she “fear(s) to find/Mine eye too great a flatterer for my mind” (315-316) and goes on to basically say fate will determine what will happen. Considering that she wants Cesario to return, it sounds like she is falling for him/her.

Resources

Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust is another awesome website with many interesting resources. One of their pages has [podcasts](#) about various topics. Check it out, especially the section titled, "[Let's Talk Shakespeare](#)", which includes 10 podcasts covering topics like, "[Did Shakespeare Love His Wife?](#)" At right is a painting of his wife, Anne Hathaway.

