



ELA Virtual Learning

English 218 Introduction to Literature

Lesson: May 5, 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:

For the theme of appearance vs. reality, so far there is much going on in this play. Describe one situation in the reading so far which is indicative of this theme.

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

Learn

We have started to discuss development of theme in a play, and the first one identified is a favorite theme of Shakespeare's - appearance vs. reality. Shakespeare often disguised his characters and right away, Viola has disguised herself as a man, Cesario, to gain access to Orsino, who is smitten with Olivia. After discourse with "Cesario", Olivia now seems to be interested in him/her, while Viola has sworn she will marry Orsino. Shakespeare has provided a classic trope of theatre - the love triangle. (A trope is the use of figurative language, such as a word or phrase, or an image, to artistic effect; often it is a metaphor used in a cliched manner.) Consider any movies or books you know of which feature a love triangle.

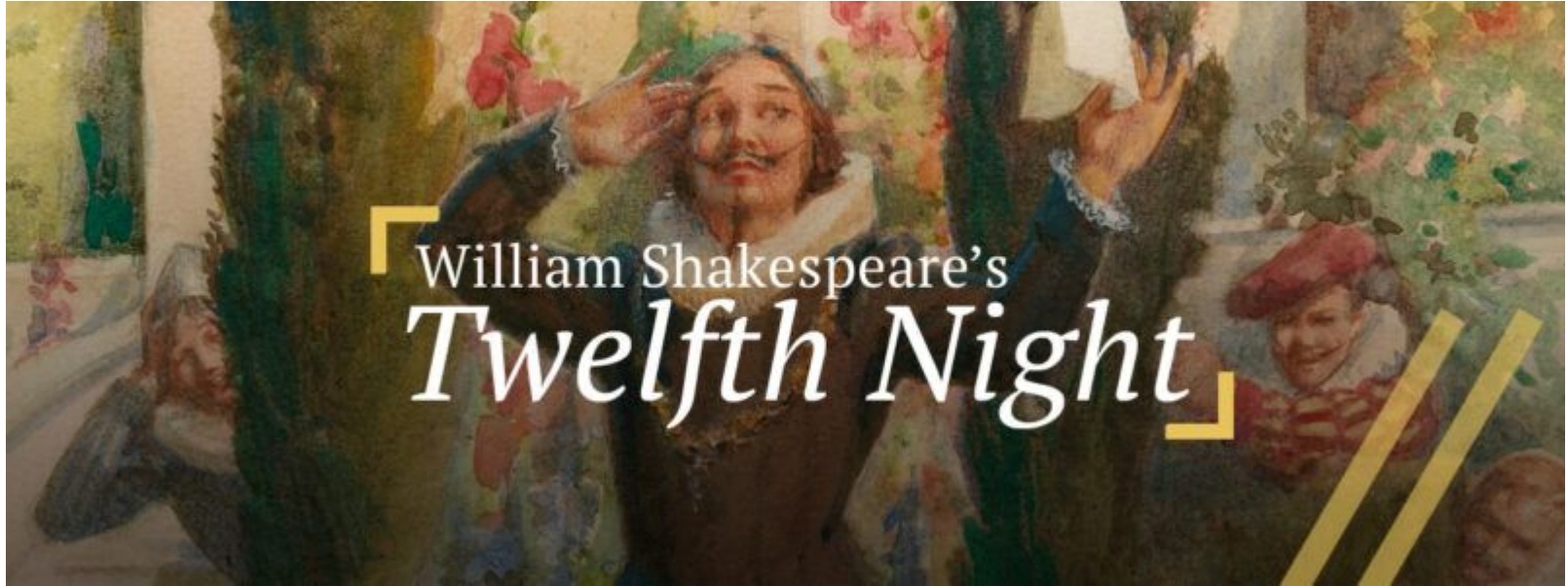
Consider what consequences typically are associated with a love triangle. It is virtually impossible for everyone to get what they want, so there is unrequited love and jealousy, which are sometimes themes as well. As we read [Twelfth Night](#), keep an eye out for evidence of these themes.

Learn - theme development

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. In addition, the ways characters change, and the lessons they learn may also help build theme. Keep these in mind.

Today you will begin reading Act 2. New characters will be introduced, and along with them come new themes. One of Shakespeare's favorite tools - the soliloquy - will also be used to develop themes. Look for one by Viola which addresses the love triangle and its problems, and also introduces a new theme.

A soliloquy is a speech made by a character to no one in particular - in fact, it is actually like someone talking to him/herself. Shakespeare used this tool a lot to let the audience/reader into the mind of the character. It can be used for characterization - direct or indirect - but also for development/support of a theme.



Please continue your reading of *Twelfth Night*, beginning on page 49 of the book; read Act 2, Scene 1 and Scene 2, through page 53. Remember, these are now book page numbers - not pdf page numbers.

Practice:

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

1. Act 2 introduces two new characters - Antonio and Sebastian. Who are these two?
2. Sebastian has a monologue pretty much right away wherein he talks about a topic which develops a theme we have not yet identified here. What is the theme brought up in his monologue on page 49? State and describe it, including a quote.
3. Viola has a soliloquy in this act which reveals quite a lot. In it, she lays out the love triangle, specifically, but in her musings, she also discusses some things related to our theme of appearance vs. reality, as well as some ideas which introduce another theme. Using the text, explain how she supports the theme of appearance vs. reality, and also identify the new theme.

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 Viola dressing as a man, or Olivia asking Viola/Cesario to bring back the ring.

Practice: Possible responses are on the following slides.

Examples of Quality Responses

1. Act 2 introduces two new characters - Antonio and Sebastian. Who are these two?

Response: Sebastian is Viola's twin brother; Antonio is Sebastian's good friend.

2. Sebastian has a monologue pretty much right away wherein he talks about a topic which develops a theme we have not yet identified here. What is the theme brought up in his monologue on page 49? State and describe it, including a quote. **Response:** His monologue reveals a theme of the special relationship between twins. He says that his father left behind him and a twin sister, born within the same hour. The special relationship is shown when he says, "If the heavens had been/pleased, would we had so ended!" (2.1. 18-19) He is saying they should have also died together, showing how close they are. A few lines later, he also alludes to drowning in his tears, much as he assumes she has drowned in salt water.

Examples of Quality Responses

3. Viola has a soliloquy in this act which reveals quite a lot. In it, she lays out the love triangle, specifically, but in her musings, she also discusses some things related to our theme of appearance vs. reality, as well as some ideas which introduce another theme. Using the text, explain how she supports the theme of appearance vs. reality, and also identify the new theme. **Response:** Viola supports the first theme when she says, “The cunning in her passion/Invites me in this churlish messenger” (2.2.22-23). She is talking about Olivia’s ruse to get her/Cesario to come back. It is seen again a few lines later. “Disguise, I see thou art a wickedness” (2.2.27). Here, she is stating plainly that to disguise is to invite problems. Just a few lines later, she says, “How easy is it for the proper false/In women’s waxen hearts to set their forms!/Alas, [our] frailty is the cause” (2.2.29-31). The new theme here is the weakness of women and their fickleness. <By the way, this is a popular theme in Shakespeare’s and in Christian literature, during the time of rampant misogyny.>

Resources

Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust is another awesome website with many interesting resources. One of their pages has [podcasts](#) about various topics. [What Manner of Man Was Shakespeare?](#) is a podcast by a Shakespearean scholar who discusses this. Who was Shakespeare, the man? This scholar examines many ways to answer that and it is fascinating. Check it out; you can also read the script, if you prefer.

