



# ELA Virtual Learning

## English 218 Introduction to Literature

Lesson: May 6, 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:

In Act 2, Scene 2, Viola refers to “women’s waxen hearts”. What do you think she means by that, i.e. why “waxen”?

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

# Learn - theme and diction

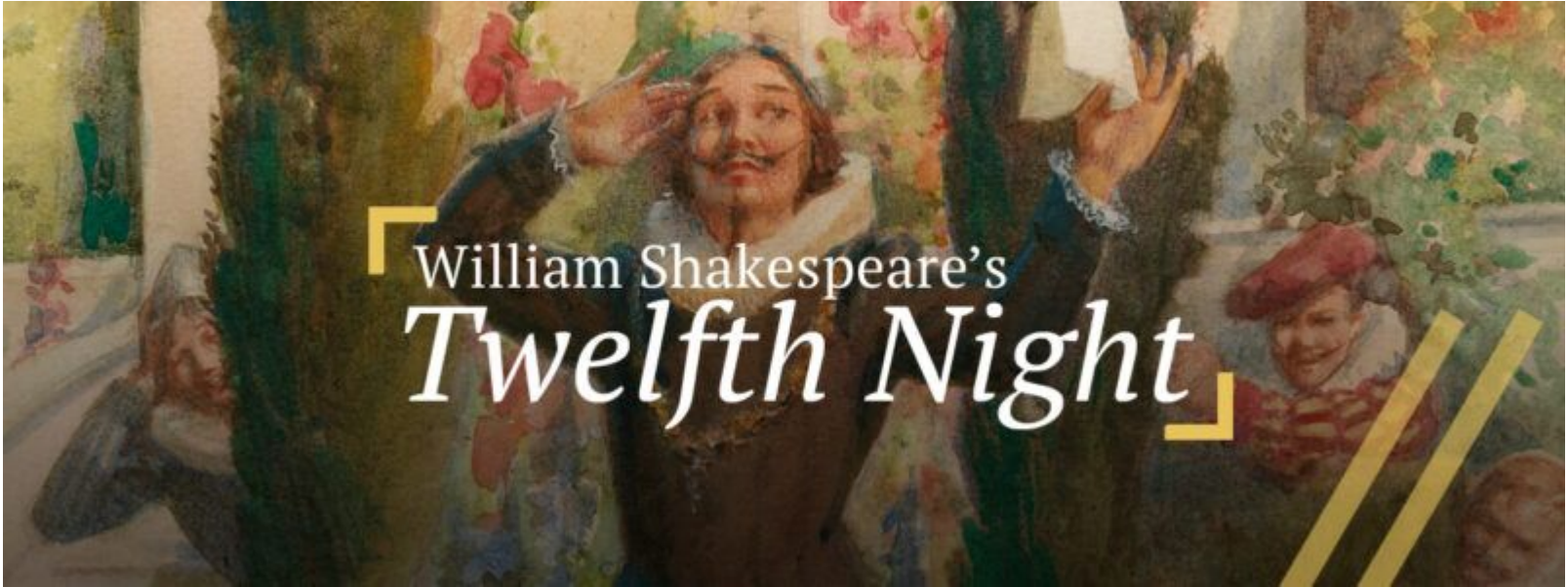
Women's "waxen hearts" is another great example of Shakespeare's creative, and yet precise, diction. Think about qualities of wax; it is strong and hard when cold, and supple and yielding when warm. Viola uses this phrase when referring to Olivia, who seems attracted to her as Cesario, which has basically happened in an instant. This lays groundwork for the theme of women as weak and fickle. The specificity of the diction makes it possible to invoke that imagery and jump-start that theme with just a few words.

A quality of reading a play is that readers do not have the luxury of 300 or 400 pages in which to comprehend and relate to characters and themes. A play is intended to be performed in a relatively short amount of time; many of Shakespeare's plays are around two hours long, though some are longer. *Twelfth Night* is one of the shorter plays, at just over 2,000 lines, running at or even under two hours. Much to do, and little time in which to do it.

# Learn - theme and figurative language

Though “waxen” is an excellent example of Shakespeare’s specific choice of words and it is easy to see its contribution to theme, there are other ways the Bard plays with words to create themes - figurative language. At the very end of Act 2, Scene 2, the final lines of Viola’s soliloquy includes a metaphor. “O Time, thou must untangle this, not I./It is too hard a knot for me t’ untie” (2.2.40-41). She is considering her predicament as a woman disguised as a man, who loves a man who is trying to woo another woman, who now is attracted to herself because she looks like a man...that is a considerable “knot”. In this case, the metaphor of a messy knot is used to advance the idea of the love triangle, and along with it, the theme of appearance vs. reality.

As you continue with your reading, be aware of Shakespeare’s diction and use of figurative language.



Please continue your reading of *Twelfth Night*, beginning on page 55 of the book, and read all of Act 2, Scenes 3 and 4, through page 75 . Remember, these are now book page numbers - not pdf page numbers.

# Practice:

Twelfth Night - Act 2, Scenes 3 and 4 - respond to the following questions in full sentences; typically only one or two sentences will be sufficient.

1. At the beginning of Scene 3, Toby speaks to Sir Andrew, saying, “diluculo surgere” (2). What does that mean and why does he say it? Why would Shakespeare choose the Latin for this?
2. Scene 3 contains many difficult words. Some can be understood in context, while some need to be looked up. Look up and define the following: impetigos, consanguineous, and mitigation.
3. In Scene 3, Sir Toby, Sir Andrew and the Fool are singing loudly. Malvolio comes in to get rid of them. When he leaves, Maria tells Toby she will drop letters for Malvolio to find, which will sound like they are from Olivia and that she finds him attractive. Toby responds, “Excellent! I smell a device” (161). What does this mean and to what does he refer?

# Practice:

Twelfth Night - Act 2, Scenes 3 and 4 - respond to the following questions in full sentences; typically only one or two sentences will be sufficient.

4. Maria's scheme to make a fool of Malvolio is a prime example of one of Shakespeare's favorite themes. What is the theme and what literary device has he used here to introduce it?



# 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 candle wax and its qualities.*

*Practice: Possible responses are on the following slides.*

# Examples of Quality Responses

1. Googling *diluculo surgere*, one finds these are the first two words of a Latin maxim which says, "to get up at dawn is very healthful." Toby is chiding Andrew for still being in bed. Shakespeare may have used the Latin because it is the natural choice for that saying and a young man of Toby's status; he is a nobleman, and so would be educated in Latin.
2. Any good dictionary will provide definitions for these words; do be sure the definition you choose fits the context.
3. "I smell a device" is a metaphor much like one we use today, "I smell a rat" except when we say "rat" we mean a bad person or "snitch"; here, a "device" means a scheme or plan. Toby can tell Maria has a plan to get back at Malvolio.
4. Making a fool of Malvolio is a mild case of a revenge theme. "I smell a device" is a metaphor, meaning Toby can tell Maria has a plan to get back at Malvolio - revenge. This metaphor introduces a revenge theme.

# Resources

[Picturing \*Twelfth Night\*](#) is a special section on the *Twelfth Night* pages of Folger Shakespeare Library which has digitized images from plays and also paintings of some of the characters of the play. When you open the link, you will have to scroll down just a bit. At right is an example of a painting - this one is Viola, as Cesario, and Orsino, from Act 1, Scene 4. On the webpage, each image has a little exclamation point in the upper right - click on it for more information about the image.

