

# ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

## Acting Out

In *Twelfth Night*, as in many of Shakespeare's comedies, the use of disguise leads to much chaos and confusion. Examine the following scenes:

- The "Make me a willow cabin" scene between Cesario and Olivia (Act I, scene 5, lines 210 – end).
- The "Patience on a monument" scene between Cesario and Orsino (Act II, scene 4, lines 78 – end).
- Antonio's arrest (Act III, scene 4, lines 302 – end).
- Act IV, scene 1, with Sebastian, Feste, Sir Toby, Sir Andrew and Olivia.

How do the scenes support Viola's assertion "Disguise, I see thou art a wickedness"? Discuss the complications that arise from disguise in these scenes. Divide into groups according to the number of characters in each scene. (You may add a director if you wish.)

- Decide exactly where your scene occurs. Is it inside? In a hallway? In a bedroom? In a kitchen? Is it outside? In a garden? In a playground? In the street? It can be anywhere. You decide – but be specific.
- Devise a list of five objects present in your scene according to your setting (chair, bed, book, sword, sink, lamp etc.).

- In your group, act out the scene, keeping in mind your location and objects. Make sure that each character "uses" at least two of the objects in some way.

- Work through the scene again, keeping in mind the character's motivation or intention in "using" the objects. For example, if you have decided that at some point in your scene Olivia sits down in a chair, you must be able to explain why. Is she tired? Is she ending the conversation? Or what? Rehearse the scene again in preparation for presentation to the class.

- As an extension, make a drawing of your set according to the decisions you have made about location, set pieces etc.

### Extension:



The Stratford Festival stage is a "thrust" stage which means the audience sits on three sides. How would you: **a)** design your scene using this type of stage (note – be very careful of sight-lines, large objects or set pieces cannot be placed downstage otherwise the audience cannot see); **b)** act out the scene you've chosen, but remember now you have the audience on

3 sides so how and where you stand are important, ensuring the audience can see you.



## Intervention in Illyria

Illyria, the setting of *Twelfth Night*, is a land of Shakespeare's invention. It would seem that residents of Illyria all suffer from various ailments or afflictions. Consider Malvolio, of whom Olivia notes, "You are sick of self-love." Olivia herself would seem to be excessively attached to mourning. Since her brother's recent death, she has vowed to hide her face, abjure the company of men and spend the next seven years of her life crying over him daily. Sir Toby's affliction is drink; Orsino is in love with love. The list goes on.

- In pairs, pick a character and find support in the text for the character's "illness" or affliction. Discuss possible cures or solutions.
- Things have reached such a point that an intervention is required in Illyria! Set up a talk-show scenario with the teacher in role as host. Pick students who will act as the characters, who are all guests on the show and have come to discuss their problems and afflictions. Students in the

"audience" may ask questions and offer advice.

- As an extension, pick a character and prepare a collage expressing that character's "illness."

## If Music Be the Food of Love

Divide the class into three groups. Each group will receive a copy of one of the following songs from *Twelfth Night*: "O mistress mine" (Act II, scene 3, lines 37 – 50), "Come away death" (Act II, scene 4, lines 50 – 65) or "When that I was" (Act V, scene 1, lines 386 – 404).

- As a group, read through your song a few times and make a list of the images that strike you. Choose your favourite image and, as a group, make a tableau or frozen picture of the image. Choose a title for your tableau and present it to the class.
- Each group will then create a choral reading of their song. Groups may experiment with single voices and groups of voices speaking different lines. Try using variations in volume, pitch and repetition to emphasize certain words or phrases, or to create appropriate sound effects. You may also incorporate the use of "found" musical.

