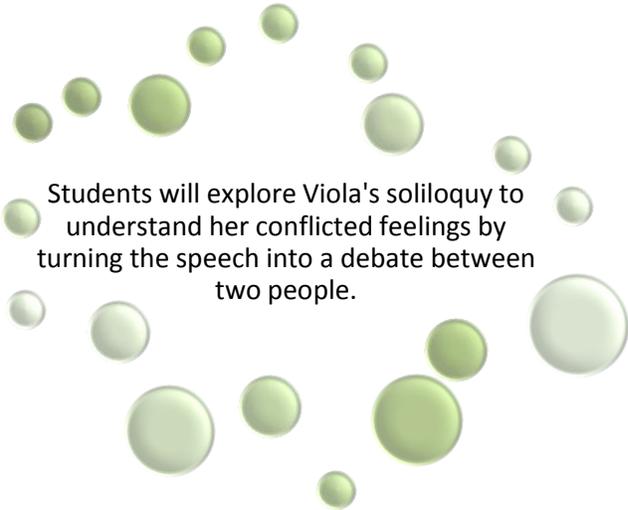


**Imaginative Ways to Approach the Text**

**Twelfth Night - Examining Viola's Soliloquy (Act II, scene 2)**



Students will explore Viola's soliloquy to understand her conflicted feelings by turning the speech into a debate between two people.



Grade Level	Subject Area	Curriculum Expectations and Learning Outcome			Time Needed	Space	Materials
6-12	English, Drama	Analyse the text, focusing on the ways in which it communicates info, ideas, and themes and influences the listener's/ viewer's response;	Demonstrate an understanding of the nature and function of the forms, elements, conventions, and techniques associated with a Shakespearean play;	Identify a variety of vocal strategies, including tone, pace, pitch, and volume, and use them appropriately.	1-2 class Periods	Desks moved to the sides, use open spaces for exploring the text	Attached handouts of Activities

## TWELFTH NIGHT - Examining Viola's Soliloquy (Act II, scene 2)

### Activity

#### STEP 1

- Working in pairs, you will read the soliloquy several times [WORKSHEET # 1].
- You will then turn her soliloquy or monologue below into a duologue.
  - Every time you get to a full stop, exclamation mark or question mark, switch reader.
- Look at the soliloquy again and create your own duologue, deciding how and where you will break up the lines [WORKSHEET # 2].
- Stage your scripted scene and present it to the rest of the class. Feel free to play around with your tone, pace, pitch, and volume and see what happens!

#### Questions~

- What did you discover about Viola's soliloquy?
- Why is Viola full of questions?
- What is your reaction to all these questions?

#### STEP 2

- Re-read the soliloquy again and mark where you think Viola has a change of thought, a realization, a decision or an action [WORKSHEET # 1].
- Write a title for every section that sums up what it is about.

#### Questions~

- Examine each section, what do you notice about how Viola tries to make sense of the events that have taken place?
- When Viola examines Olivia, what does she notice?
- What words and images does Viola use to describe Olivia?
- What are Viola's options in the end?

## TWELFTH NIGHT - Examining Viola's Soliloquy (Act II, scene 2) Excerpt

### WORKSHEET # 1

Olivia's steward, Malvolio, has delivered a ring to Viola from Olivia. Viola realizes that Olivia has fallen in love with her (disguised as the boy, Cesario).

Read this several times for meaning and clarity.

#### VIOLA

I left no ring with her: what means this lady?

Fortune forbid my outside have not charmed her!

*my looks, appearance*

She made good view of me; indeed, so much,

*had a good look at*

That methought her eyes had lost her tongue,

*made her lose*

For she did speak in starts distractedly.

*disjointedly and wild bursts*

She loves me, sure; the cunning of her passion

Invites me in this churlish messenger.

*By way of /blunt or rude*

None of my lord's ring? Why, he sent her none;

I am the man; if it be so, as 'tis,

Poor lady, she were better love a dream.

*would be better off*

Disguise, I see, thou art a wickedness,

Wherein the pregnant enemy does much.

*crafty or resourceful fiend, devil, Satan*

How easy is it for the proper-false

*handsome deceiver*

In women's waxen hearts to set their forms!

*easily moulded, changeable / make their impressions*

Alas, our frailty is the cause, not we,

*soft nature*

For such as we are made of, such we be.

How will this fadge? My master loves her dearly;

*turn out, develop*

And I, poor monster, fond as much on him;

*unnatural creature (being both man and woman)*

And she, mistaken, seems to dote on me.

*be infatuated with*

What will become of this? As I am man,

My state is desperate for my master's love;

*situation is hopeless with regard to*

As I am woman,—now alas the day!—

What thrifless sighs shall poor Olivia breathe!

*unprofitable, wasted*

O time, thou must untangle this, not I;

It is too hard a knot for me t' untie!

## TWELFTH NIGHT - Examining Viola's Soliloquy (Act II, scene 2) Excerpt

### WORKSHEET # 2

#### EXAMPLE

*This is a possible breakdown of the soliloquy as a duologue. Re-write the soliloquy or monologue as a duologue and decide who will say what - be creative and come up with your own interpretation.*

Reader # 1: I left no ring with her.

Reader # 2: What means this lady?

Reader # 1: Fortune forbid my outside have not charmed her!

Reader # 2: She made good view of me.

Reader # 1: Indeed, so much, that methought her eyes had lost her tongue,

Reader # 2: For she did speak in starts distractedly.

Reader # 1: She loves me.

Reader # 2: Sure, the cunning of her passion invites me in this churlish messenger.

Etc....