



SANTA CRUZ  
**SHAKESPEARE**  
 EDUCATION PROGRAM

## TWELFTH NIGHT

*Twelfth Night*, or *What You Will* is a romantic comedy that uses gender and performance to engage audiences with questions about the nature of love and desire. The contradictions between how characters present themselves and who they really are generate both comedy and pathos in one of Shakespeare's most popular plays. Below, you will find resources to examine this play with your students.

 **PLOT & SETTING QUESTIONS**

 **FREEZE FRAME**

 **SHAKESPEARE IN THE CLASSROOM**

### After Reading Activities

From improvisational games and improvising a scene to follow-up questions, the Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre Study Guide has some thoughtful and engaging activities to share with your students when working on *Twelfth Night*.

## Word Search

Have your students read this section of Act 2, scene 5 of *Twelfth Night*, and pay close attention to the love letter Malvolio finds:

**MALVOLIO**

What employment have we here?

*Taking up the letter*

**FABIAN**

Now is the woodcock near the gin.

**MALVOLIO**

M,--Malvolio; M,--why, that begins my name.

**FABIAN**

Did not I say he would work it out? the cur is excellent at faults.

**SIR TOBY BELCH**

O, peace! and the spirit of humour intimate reading aloud to him!

**MALVOLIO**

By my life, this is my lady's hand these be her very C's, her U's and her T's and thus makes she her great P's. It is, in contempt of question, her hand.

**SIR ANDREW**

Her C's, her U's and her T's: why that?

**MALVOLIO**

[Reads] 'To the unknown beloved, this, and my good wishes:--her very phrases! By your leave, wax. Soft! and the impressure her Lucrece, with which she uses to seal: 'tis my lady. To whom should this be?

**FABIAN**

This wins him, liver and all.

**MALVOLIO**

[Reads]  
Jove knows I love: But who?  
Lips, do not move;  
No man must know.  
'No man must know.' What follows? the numbers altered! 'No man must know:' if this should be thee, Malvolio?

**SIR TOBY BELCH**

Marry, hang thee, brock!

**MALVOLIO**

[Reads]  
I may command where I adore;  
But silence, like a Lucrece knife,  
With bloodless stroke my heart doth gore:  
M, O, A, I, doth sway my life.

**FABIAN**

A fustian riddle!

**SIR TOBY BELCH**

Excellent wench, say I.

**MALVOLIO**

'M, O, A, I, doth sway my life.' Nay, but first, let me see, let me see, let me see.

**FABIAN**

What dish o' poison has she dressed him!

**MALVOLIO**

M,--but then there is no consonancy in the sequel; that suffers under probation A should follow but O does.

**FABIAN**

And O shall end, I hope.

**SIR TOBY BELCH**

Ay, or I'll cudgel him, and make him cry O!

**MALVOLIO**

And then I comes behind.

**FABIAN**

Ay, an you had any eye behind you, you might see more detraction at your heels than fortunes before you.

**MALVOLIO**

M, O, A, I; this simulation is not as the former: and yet, to crush this a little, it would bow to me, for every one of these letters are in my name. Soft! here follows prose.

*Reads*

'If this fall into thy hand, revolve. In my stars I am above thee; but be not afraid of greatness: some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon 'em. Thy Fates open their hands; let thy blood and spirit embrace them; and, to inure thyself to what thou art like to be, cast thy humble slough and appear fresh. Be opposite with a kinsman, surly with servants; let thy tongue tang arguments of state; put thyself into the trick of singularity: she thus advises thee that sighs for thee. Remember who commended thy yellow stockings, and wished to see thee ever cross-gartered: I say, remember. Go to, thou art made, if thou desirest to be so; if not, let me see thee a steward still, the fellow of servants, and not worthy to touch Fortune's fingers. Farewell. She that would alter services with thee,  
THE FORTUNATE-UNHAPPY.'

Daylight and champaign discovers not more: this is open. I will be proud, I will read politic authors, I will baffle Sir Toby, I will wash off gross acquaintance, I will be point-devise the very man. I do not now fool myself, to let imagination jade me; for every reason excites to this, that my lady loves me. She did commend my yellow stockings of late, she did praise my leg being cross-gartered; and in this she manifests herself to my love, and with a kind of injunction drives me to these habits

**SIR TOBY BELCH**

And with what wing the staniel cheques at it!

**MALVOLIO**

'I may command where I adore.' Why, she may command me: I serve her; she is my lady. Why, this is evident to any formal capacity; there is no obstruction in this: and the end,--what should that alphabetical position portend? If I could make that resemble something in me,--Softly! M, O, A, I,--

**SIR TOBY BELCH**

O, ay, make up that: he is now at a cold scent.

**FABIAN**

Sowter will cry upon't for all this, though it be as rank as a fox.

of her liking. I thank my stars I am happy. I will be strange, stout, in yellow stockings, and cross-gartered, even with the swiftness of putting on. Jove and my stars be praised! Here is yet a postscript.

*Reads*

'Thou canst not choose but know who I am. If thou entertainest my love, let it appear in thy smiling; thy smiles become thee well; therefore in my presence still smile, dear my sweet, I prithee.' Jove, I thank thee: I will smile; I will do everything that thou wilt have me.

*Exit*



Next, have your students write this letter Malvolio finds in their own words. How would the language change in contemporary writing?

Here is an example:

Malvolio reads, "Thou canst not choose but know who I am. If thou entertainest my love, let it

appear in thy smiling; thy smiles become thee well . . ."

In contemporary writing, "You must know who I am. If you love me then smile at me because you look so attractive when you smile."

In my own words, "I love you so much you just have to know who I am. Please smile when you're around me so I know you love me. Your smile is so lovely."

Now you search for your own words!

Additional fun activity for younger students: [Twelfth Night Wordsearch](#)

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## **Classes for Educators**

Santa Cruz Shakespeare's own Textual Consultant and Head Dramaturg, Michael Warren, will be discussing our upcoming season's plays in a zoom series through UCSC's [Osher Lifelong Learning Institute](#). This is a great way to hear about our upcoming season (announcement coming soon!) and gain a deeper understanding of some of Shakespeare's plays with fellow enthusiasts. You must be an OLLI member to sign up. Details are below:

### [Santa Cruz Shakespeare 2021 Online Course](#)

Tuesdays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 10-12 a.m.

Location: Zoom

Instructor: Michael Warren

Michael, a very knowledgeable and entertaining Shakespeare scholar, will discuss the two plays that Santa Cruz Shakespeare will be presenting next summer. Over the years the OLLI members have found that taking this class greatly enhances their understanding and enjoyment of the plays. Click [HERE](#) to become an OLLI member!

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## Contact Us

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