

TWELFTH NIGHT

READING COMPREHENSION

ACT 2

YEAR 5 AND 6

Act 2 Scene 1

Moments after she had left Olivia's house, Viola was tens of miles away on the outskirts of a nearby town.

What was going on?! Was she, in fact, a goddess with a superpower? From the future? From another planet? How could this be?

Also, her walk seemed different somehow, less like someone pretending to be a giant, more like ...well, like a normal human man!

And who was that sea captain who was talking to her?

"Will you stay no longer, Sebastian? Nor will you not that I go with you?"

This could make your head explode; why was he calling Viola Sebastian?

"My stars shine darkly over me, Antonio; I crave your leave that I may bear my evils alone."

BLIMEY! Where did that deep voice come from? Had she borrowed it from a bloke with a big beard?

"Some hour before you took me from the breach of the sea was my twin sister drowned."

Well, that's just wrong, isn't it? If you've been following the story at all, like me, you'll remember that it was her twin BROTHER who had drowned. At least, she was pretty sure that he had. Ninety percent. There was some doubt, it's true. Now that I think about it, the rest of the sailors on the boat *did* tell her that they'd seen him swimming like a human dolphin (or words to that effect). Hmmmm. Could I be mistaken? As I see it, there are two possible explanations here: one, Viola has slipped through a hole in the very fabric of space-time into an alternate universe, or two, this isn't Viola, but Sebastian her twin brother, not drowned after all. It's one, isn't it. *Definitely* one. What do you think? Two? TWO?? Ridiculous. I suggest we keep listening...

"My father was that Sebastian Of Messaline whom I know you have heard of. He left behind him myself and a sister, both born in an hour."

Ok, you're right, this is Viola's twin brother, miraculously survived, though also heartbroken and also convinced that his twin had been drowned.

Antonio, first his rescuer and now his friend, was deeply worried at the grief he saw, and wanted, with all his heart to help.

“If you will not murder me for my love, let me be your servant.”

But Antonio had done more than enough: Sebastian could not ask for more; he said goodbye.

“Fare ye well at once. I am bound to the Count Orsino’s court.”

As Sebastian turned and walked away, Antonio muttered,

“I have many enemies in Orsino’s court, but come what may, I do adore thee so,
The danger shall seem sport and I will go.”

Scene 2

Moments after she had left, when Viola (the real Viola) was still near Olivia’s house, when a soberly dressed figure with a very haughty expression approached.

Malvolio had always suspected there’d been a terrible mistake and that he’d been swapped at birth. Somewhere, a Duke and Duchess had been given a really lower-class, common baby, whilst he - their real son - noble, brilliant, dashing handsome, with a very majestic nose - had been brought up by servants. It had been awful, and now he himself was a servant. Ghastly. But, inside, he knew that he was still better than everyone else and comforted himself by letting them know it. Sir Toby, Sir Andrew, Maria, Feste - better than all of them. And definitely better than this young servant of Orsino’s who couldn’t even grow a beard, and, what’s more, walked as if his trousers had been fashioned out of tree bark. And now he had had to chase after this servant, almost run - how undignified - to catch up with him.

“Were not you even now with the Countess Olivia?” he panted.

“Even now, sir; on a moderate pace I have since arrived but hither.”

Ah. A joke. How hilarious. About as funny as Feste the Clown. Malvolio decided to punish this youth with one of his Special Looks. This involved speaking to the person without looking at them at all, instead, staring moodily into the distance. That would teach him respect!

“She returns this ring to you, sir: you might have saved me my pains, to have taken it away yourself.”

He threw the ring contemptuously at Cesario. Or, he would have, if he hadn’t been doing the Special Look. As it was, the ring bounced off a tree and rolled back between Malvolio’s feet. He ignored it nobly.

“She adds, moreover, that you should put your lord into a desperate assurance she will none of him.”

His duty completed, Malvolio turned and left.

Viola was puzzled.

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

Staring at the ring for some moments, she started to blush as the truth slowly dawned:

“She loves me, sure! The cunning of her passion invites me in this churlish messenger. None of my lord's ring! Why, he sent her none. I am the man!”

So, a woman - Olivia - is in love with Cesario - who is not a man, but secretly a woman - Viola - who is in love with Orsino - who really is a man, but who loves Olivia, who really is a woman, and Viola, because she is also Cesario, and it is Cesario's *job*, has to persuade Olivia to marry the man that she - Viola - loves. You now have my permission to be confused.

Scene 3

BUURP!
Not for nothing, Sir Toby thought with great satisfaction, was his last name Belch. This had to be one of the best parties he had ever thrown. It had everything: drinking, dancing, huge pies and, to cap it all, he had just won the All-Illyria Burping competition. Nobody had even got close to his one and a half minutes of continual burp, which had been so powerful that it had blown out all the candles. Now the room was dark and, he thought proudly, pretty whiffy. So whiffy, in fact, that most of the guests had decided to leave....

As he re-lit the candles, Sir Toby noticed with pleasure that, even though the sun would be up in a couple of hours, both Feste and Sir Andrew were still partying. In fact, Sir Andrew was just showing Feste an extraordinary dance move which he called The Heron Struck by Lightning. Could they continue the party with just three of them? Of course they could! He put his arms around his fellow revellers and they started to jump up and down, up and down, faster and faster.

“Does not our life consist of the four elements?” shouted Feste.

“I think it rather consists of eating and drinking!” roared back Sir Andrew, leaping like a salmon returning home. This was the very cue Sir Toby had been waiting for...

“Maria! A stoup of wine!” he called at the top of his lungs.

Seconds later, Maria came running in, pulling her dressing gown around her and rapidly shoving Sir Andrew away as he tried to pull her into their jumping circle.

“What a caterwauling do you keep here?” she hissed in a furious whisper.

Ah Maria, thought Sir Toby. What a wonderful woman. The sight of her made him break into song!

“Three Merry Men and Three Merry Men and Three Merry Men are we!”

This song, with its easy to learn words, had been a recent hit, and Feste and Sir Andrew joined in heartily...
Maria, fearing that the awful noise would bring down the wrath of Malvolio upon them all, gestured frantically.

“For the love of God, Peace!”

Too late. They could hear Malvolio stamping down the corridor, and the end of his nose, which seemed to enter several seconds before the rest of him, quivered with rage.

“My masters, are you mad? Have you no manners but to gabble like tinkers at this time of night!”

Sir Toby and friends stared at their shoes, trying not to giggle. But Malvolio had not finished. He looked down his long beak at Sir Toby.

“Sir Toby, my lady bade me tell you, if you can separate yourself and your misdemeanours, you are welcome to the house; if not, she is very willing to bid you farewell!”

As he returned to his bedchamber, Malvolio felt a certain satisfaction with the telling off he had given to Sir Toby and his friends.

That was a mistake.

For, after he had gone, Maria revealed a plan to make Malvolio look like the biggest fool in Illyria. So skilful was she at imitating her mistresses’ handwriting, she said, that she could write a letter to Malvolio professing love and he would be sure to believe that it was from Olivia. He would find the letter, as if by chance, on one of the paths in Olivia's garden. And Maria, Sir Toby and their friends would all be hidden nearby so that they could watch and savour every second.

Part 1: Scene 1

1. “Moments after she had left Olivia’s house, Viola was tens of miles away on the outskirts of a nearby town...”

Re read the first page.

Viola is walking on the outskirts of a nearby town...

TRUE

FALSE

B. Write down a direct quote to support your answer

2. **Who is walking on the “outskirts of a nearby town”?**

Viola	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sebastian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sir Toby	<input type="checkbox"/>	Malvolio	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. **What two explanations does the author give for what has happened. Use direct quotes from the text**

1. _____

2. _____

4. **Where is Sebastian headed for?**

5. **Why is it dangerous for Antonio to go to Orsino’s court?**

6. **Why does Antonio agree to go to Orsino’s court. Tick one box**

Antonio is best friends with Duke Orsino	<input type="checkbox"/>
Antonio has heard Duke Orsino lives in a beautiful palace	<input type="checkbox"/>
Antonio is very fond of Sebastian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Antonio is very hungry and hopes there may be some food there.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 2: Scene 2

7. Who approached Viola, shortly after she left Olivia's house?

8. Tick 2 synonyms for "haughty"

arrogant

modest

stuck up

humble

9. Use a direct quote from the text to show us that Malvolio is arrogant and snobby.

10. What does Malvolio give to Viola?

11. Why is Viola surprised?

12. Who does Olivia love?

Part 3: Scene 3

**13. “BUURP!
Not for nothing, Sir Toby thought with great satisfaction, was his last
name Belch”.**

Why is it appropriate that Sir Toby’s last name is ‘Belch’

**14. Write down three things that make the party “one of the best” Sir Toby
has thrown.**

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

15. What does Sir Toby shout to Maria to bring?

16. Who thinks Maria is a “wonderful woman?”

**17. What is the name of the song Sir Toby, Feste and Sir Andrew start
singing when Maria comes into the room? Use a direct quote from the
text**

18. Why is Maria worried? Tick one box

The room was a mess from the party

The room smelt from all of Sir Toby's burps

She thought Sir Toby and his friends might wake Malvolio

She thought Sir Toby might fall and hurt himself

19. "Too late. They could hear Malvolio stamping down the corridor, and the end of his nose, which seemed to enter several seconds before the rest of him, quivered with rage".

Copy a phrase that shows Malvolio was cross

20. What does it mean that Malvolio felt

"a certain satisfaction with the telling off he had given to Sir Toby and his friends".

Tick one box

Malvolio felt pleased with himself

Malvolio felt sad with himself

Malvolio felt cross with himself

Malvolio felt pleased with Sir Toby

21. What is Maria's plan?

22. Do you think Maria's plan will work?

YES

NO

Justify your answer with evidence from the text

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ANSWERS
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Re read the first page.

Viola is walking on the outskirts of a nearby town...

TRUE

FALSE

B. Write down a direct quote to support your answer

“Will you stay no longer, Sebastian? Nor will you not that I go with you?”

2. **Who is walking on the “outskirts of a nearby town”?**

Viola

Sebastian

3. **What two explanations does the author give for what has happened. Use direct quotes from the text**

1. Viola has slipped through a hole in the very fabric of space-time into an alternate universe

2. This isn’t Viola, but Sebastian her twin brother, not drowned after all.

4. **Where is Sebastian headed for?**

Orsino’s Court

5. **Why is it dangerous for Antonio to go to Orsino’s court?**

Because he has enemies there

6. **Why does Antonio agree to go to Orsino’s court. Tick one box**

Antonio is very fond of Sebastian

Part 2: Scene 2

7. Who approached Viola, shortly after she left Olivia's house?

Malvolio

8. Tick 2 synonyms for "haughty"

arrogant

modest

stuck up

humble

9. Use a direct quote from the text to show us that Malvolio is arrogant and snobby.

"Inside he knew that he was still better than everyone else"

10. What does Malvolio give to Viola?

A ring

11. Why is Viola surprised?

Because she didn't leave a ring with Olivia and she realises this is Olivia's way of saying that she loves her

12. Who does Olivia love?

Viola/Cesario

Part 3: Scene 3

13. ***"BUURP!
Not for nothing, Sir Toby thought with great satisfaction, was his last name Belch".***

Why is it appropriate that Sir Toby's last name is 'Belch'

Because he loves burping and 'belch' and 'burp' mean the same thing!

14. Write down three things that make the party "one of the best" Sir Toby has thrown.

1. Drinking
2. Dancing
3. Pies

15. What does Sir Toby shout to Maria to bring?

Wine

16. Who thinks Maria is a “wonderful woman?”

Sir Toby

17. What is the name of the song Sir Toby, Feste and Sir Andrew start singing when Maria comes into the room? Use a direct quote from the text

“Three Merry Men and Three Merry Men and Three Merry Men are we!”

18. Why is Maria worried? Tick one box

She thought Sir Toby and his friends might wake Malvolio

19. “Too late. They could hear Malvolio stamping down the corridor, and the end of his nose, which seemed to enter several seconds before the rest of him, quivered with rage”.

Copy a phrase that shows Malvolio was cross

stamping down the corridor

OR

quivered with rage

20. What does it mean that Malvolio felt

“a certain satisfaction with the telling off he had given to Sir Toby and his friends”.

Tick one box

Malvolio felt pleased with himself

21. What is Maria’s plan?

To forge a letter from Olivia to Malvolio telling him she loves him

22. Do you think Maria’s plan will work?

YES NO

Justify your answer with evidence from the text

Could be either answer as long as they show they have understood the characters. For example, YES because Malvolio is arrogant and therefore would believe it to be true or NO because Sir Toby and his friends are so silly and just like to party all the time they will probably mess the plan up!