

## TWELFTH NIGHT Study Questions

When answering the questions, include the relevant Act, scene, and line references.

### **Act I**, scene i

1. With whom is Duke Orsino in love?
2. Where has Valentine been? Why?
3. Why won't Olivia receive Valentine?
4. According to Orsino, how is Olivia likely to treat the man with whom she falls in love?
5. What seems to be wrong with the nature of the Duke's love?

### I, ii

1. Where is Viola?
2. What has recently happened to her?
3. What hope does the Captain give her regarding her brother, Sebastian?
4. What is Viola's plan? What purpose will the plan serve? What does this tell you about her character?

### I, iii

1. Who is Sir Toby? What do you learn about his character?
2. Who is Maria?
3. What does Maria reveal about Olivia's concerns regarding Sir Toby?
4. Who is Sir Andrew Aguecheek?
5. What is the purpose of Sir Andrew's visit? Why is he thinking about leaving?
6. What do you learn about Sir Andrew's character?

### I, iv

1. How much time has passed since scene one?
2. Who is Cesario?
3. Describe the relationship between Orsino and Cesario.
4. How persistently is Orsino courting Olivia? Explain.
5. How will Cesario be rewarded if "he" wins Olivia for the Duke?
6. How does Cesario feel about courting Olivia for the Duke? Why?

### I, v

1. Why is Olivia angry with Feste, the clown?
2. How does Feste regain favour with Olivia?
3. Who is Malvolio? What kind of person does he seem to be?

I, v – continued

4. How difficult is it for Cesario (Viola) to get to see Olivia?
5. What impression does Cesario (Viola) make on Olivia?
6. Why did Olivia send a messenger to Cesario (Viola) with the ring? How will this development complicate the plot?

**Act II**, scene i

1. Where is Sebastian? How did he get there?
2. What is his relationship with Viola?
3. Where is Sebastian going?
4. How will this complicate the plot?

II, ii

1. Why did Malvolio go after Cesario?
2. What does the ring signify to Cesario?
3. What complications will this add to the plot?

II, iii

1. What was Malvolio sent to tell Sir Toby?
2. What are Maria's feelings for Sir Toby?
3. Explain the trick Maria and Sir Toby are planning to play on Malvolio. Why do they want to do this?

II, iv

1. What is Orsino's mood at the opening of the scene?
2. Explain why the lines 25-45 are an example of dramatic irony.
3. What "orders" does the Duke give to Cesario (Viola)?
4. How does Viola indirectly tell Orsino of her love?

II, v

1. Why are Maria, Toby, Andrew, and Fabian hiding?
2. What is Malvolio doing when he enters?
3. How does Malvolio insult Sir Toby and Sir Andrew?
4. In your own words, tell the contents of the letter.
5. Describe Malvolio's reaction to the contents of the letter.
6. How do we know the trick will succeed?

### **Act III, scene i**

1. What is the purpose of Feste?
2. Why has Cesario gone to see Olivia?
3. How are the following lines, by Cesario (Viola) an example of dramatic irony?  
"I have one heart, one bosom, and one truth,  
And that no woman has; nor never none  
Shall mistress be of it, save I alone."
4. On what pretext does Olivia ask Cesario to come back again? What is Olivia's real reason for asking "him" to return?

### **III, ii**

1. Why has Sir Andrew decided to leave?
2. How does Toby interpret Olivia's behaviour to Andrew?
3. What new trickery is Toby up to now?
4. How do you know that the trick they played on Malvolio is working?

### **III, iii**

1. Why has Antonio followed Sebastian?
2. Why can Antonio not go freely about the streets of Illyria?
3. Why did Antonio give his purse to Sebastian?

### **III, iv**

1. Why is Malvolio behaving so foolishly?
2. What effect does Malvolio's behaviour have on Olivia?
3. What does Toby decide to do with Malvolio? Why?
4. Why has Sir Andrew written a challenge to Cesario?
5. Why did Toby decide to deliver the message by word of mouth?
6. What has gone on between Olivia and Cesario?
7. How does Cesario react to the challenge?
8. What does Toby tell Andrew about Cesario's reaction? What does he tell Cesario about Andrew's reaction?
9. How does Toby persuade each of them to fight the other? .
10. How does the duel end?
11. Why is Antonio arrested?
12. How does mistaken identity confuse matters?

### **Act IV, scene i**

1. Why does Sebastian say, "Are all the people mad?"
2. Why does Olivia invite Sebastian home with her?
3. What is Sebastian's response to this invitation? How will this complicate the plot?

IV, ii

1. Who is Sir Topaz?
2. Why does he go to Malvolio?
3. How does he try to convince Malvolio that Malvolio is mad?
4. What is Malvolio's mental state?
5. What request does Malvolio make?

IV, iii

1. Why is Sebastian confused?
2. What are Olivia and Sebastian going to do? How will this complicate the plot?

**Act V**, scene i

1. Why does Antonio accuse Cesario of being ungrateful?
2. Of what does Olivia accuse Cesario?
3. What does the priest reveal to Orsino?
4. What is Orsino's reaction to this news?
5. Of what does Sir Andrew accuse Cesario?
6. How does the appearance of Sebastian affect Olivia, Orsino, and Cesario?
7. What does Cesario reveal to Sebastian?
8. What are the Duke and Viola going to do?
9. How does Olivia react to Malvolio's letter?
10. What information does Fabian give Olivia about Sir Toby and Maria?
11. What is Malvolio's mood at the end of the play?