Baker Street Readers

Great reads for all ages

Viola survives a shipwreck, but she thinks her twin brother Sebastian has died.

Alone in a strange country where it isn't safe to be a single girl, Viola disguises herself as a boy called Cesario and finds work as a servant.

But dressing in boy's clothes doesn't stop Viola falling in love with a man – who is in love with someone else.

Will she ever manage to win his love for herself?

And who is this other young man that appears, looking so like Cesario? What confusion will result from his arrival? Perhaps Viola's brother didn't drown after all…

Lexile® Level	AR Level	Word Count
570L	4.2	5,259

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"Miniature masterpieces"

- BBC R4, Open Book

TWELFTH NIGHT

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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www.bakerstreetreaders.co.uk

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TEACHER'S EDITION ONLY

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RENAISSANCE
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THE CHARACTERS

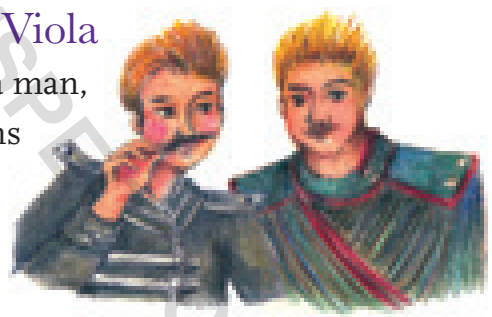


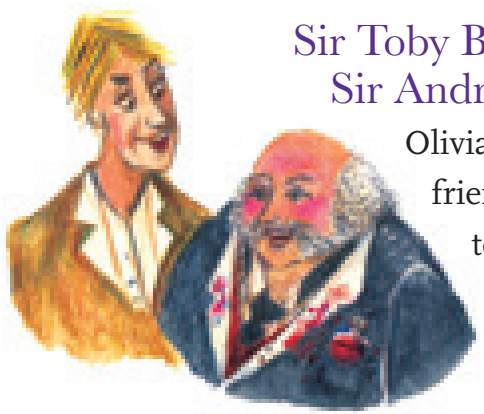
Duke Orsino and Olivia

Orsino, the Duke of Illyria, loves the rich young Countess, Olivia, but she doesn't love him. There will be a wedding – but who will marry whom?

Sebastian and Viola

When Viola dresses as a man, no one can tell these twins apart. What confusion will they cause amongst the people of Illyria?





Sir Toby Belch and Sir Andrew Aguecheek

Olivia's uncle Toby has a foolish friend, Sir Andrew, who wants to marry Olivia. But all Sir Toby wants is to get him drunk and make money out of him.



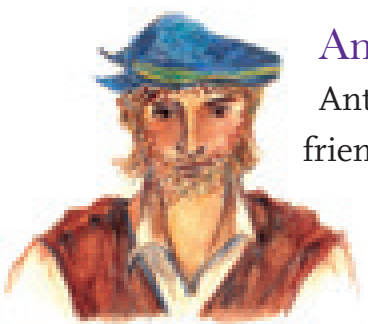
Malvolio

Olivia's pompous steward forgets he is only a servant. Can the other servants make a lovesick fool out of him?

Feste the Clown, Fabian, and Maria

The servants are all willing to help Sir Toby get his own back on Malvolio. But do they go too far?





Antonio

Antonio is Sebastian's devoted friend. He is willing to follow him anywhere, but will this lead him into danger?

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TWELFTH NIGHT

ACT ONE, SCENE ONE
THE DUKE ORSINO'S PALACE

Orsino

If music be the food of love, play on
Till I have had enough and want no more.
That tune again! It had such soft sad notes.
O, it came o'er my ear like the sweet sound
That breathes upon a bank of violets.
O, when mine eyes did see Olivia first,
My heart became tormented with my love.

Messenger enters.

How now, what news from her?

Messenger

So please my lord, she would not let me in.
Her maid gave me this message in reply:
The lady shall, for her dead brother's sake,
In mourning stay for all of seven years.

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Orsino
O she that hath a heart so fine to make
This sacrifice, should have abundant love
For me when I have won her precious heart.
Away before me to sweet beds of flowers:
Love-thoughts lie rich when canopied with bowers.

ACT ONE, SCENE TWO
THE SEA COAST

Viola
What country, friend, is this?

Captain
This is Illyria, lady.

Viola
And what should I do in Illyria?
My brother is in heaven.
Perhaps he is not drowned: what think you, sailor?

Captain
'Twas only chance that you yourself were saved.

Viola
O my poor brother! Would he were alive.

Captain
When you and those poor number saved with you
Hung on our rescue boat, I saw your brother
Cling to a mast that floated on the waves
So long as I could see.



Viola
I thank thee for that hope. Who governs here?

Captain
A noble duke, in nature as in name,
Orsino, is he.

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or Egyptian queens in the imagination of the audience.

Shakespeare wrote mostly in blank verse, in unrhymed lines of ten syllables with a *te-tum te-tum* rhythm (though *Twelfth Night* contains more variety of style than most of Shakespeare's plays). But unlike most writers of his time, he tried to make his actors' lines closer to the rhythms of everyday speech, in order to make it sound more naturalistic. He used poetic imagery, and even invented words that we still use today.

His plays are mostly based on stories or old plays that he improved. It is thought that *Twelfth Night* was performed on the twelfth day after Christmas in front of Queen Elizabeth and her guest, an Italian nobleman called Orsino.

Finding out more

We recommend the following books and websites to gain a greater understanding of William Shakespeare and Elizabethan England:

Books

- Marcia Williams, *Mr William Shakespeare's Plays*, Walker Books, 2009.

- Leon Garfield, *Shakespeare Stories*, Victor Gollanz, 1985.
- Stewart Ross, *William Shakespeare*, Writers in Britain series, Evans, 1999.
- Felicity Hebditch, *Tudors*, Britain through the Ages series, Evans, 2003.
- Dereen Taylor, *The Tudors and the Stuarts*, Wayland, 2007.

Websites

- www.shakespeare.org.uk
Good general introduction to the life of Shakespeare. Contains information and pictures of the houses linked to him in and around Stratford.
- www.elizabethan-era.org.uk
Lots of information including details of Elizabethan daily life.
- www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare
See the original texts side by side with a modern English translation.

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