

Worksheet 6 - Gender

Review: Lecture 5 – Language

In the previous lecture of the unit, Dr. Duncan discussed the importance of Shakespeare's use of language and imagery.

In Act 5 Scene 1, Orsino describes Olivia as having 'a raven's heart within a dove'. What do you think he is suggesting about her?

Recall: Lecture 6 – Gender

Answer these questions after watching the video lecture to check how much you remember.

1. When is Viola's real name heard on stage for the first time in the play?
 - a) Act 1 Scene 2
 - b) Act 1 Scene 5
 - c) Act 3 Scene 4
 - d) Act 5 Scene 1
2. Which character describes Cesario as 'between boy and man' in Act 1 Scene 5?
 - a) Malvolio
 - b) Maria
 - c) Olivia
 - d) Feste
3. Dr. Duncan refers to 'doubling' in the play. Which two characters are presented as clowns in the play?
 - a) Maria and Malvolio
 - b) Sir Andrew and Sir Toby
 - c) Feste and Malvolio
 - d) Feste and Olivia
4. In what year did Elizabeth I, deliver her famous speech to her troops at Tilbury?
 - a) 1388
 - b) 1488
 - c) 1588
 - d) 1688

Analysis

During the lecture, Dr. Duncan discusses the significance of the presentation of gender during Sebastian's final speech in the play during Act 5 Scene 1 [3.15]

Read again the second sentence of Sebastian's speech. The obvious meaning is Olivia is betrothed to both Viola and Sebastian because they are twins. However, Dr. Duncan provides

other possible interpretations. Consider what you think the final sentence means and explain the reason for your choice.

So comes it, lady, you have been
Mistook:
But nature to her bias drew in that.
You would have been contracted to a
Maid;
Nor are you therein, by my life deceived,
You are betrothed both to a maid
And man.

Evaluation

Look at these lines spoken by Viola in the play which refer to her knowingly playing a part of a man:

Viola: Conceal me what I am (I.2)

Viola: I swear I am not what I am. (I.5)

Viola: What I am and what I would are as secret as maidenhead. (I.5)

Viola: I am the man! (II.2)

Viola: Disguise, I see thou art a wickedness (II.2)

Viola: Fortune forbid my outside have not charmed her! (II.2)

Examine the issues Viola faces in the play once she chooses to disguise herself as a man.

Glossary

Androgyny (noun) – outward appearance that is not clearly male or female

Procreative (adjective) – related to producing babies