

Worksheet 1 – Comedy

Recall

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

- The First Folio* (1623) divides Shakespeare's plays into which three categories?**
 - Tragedy, Satire and Comedy
 - Tragedy, History and Comedy
 - Epic, History and Comedy
 - Tragedy, History and Romance
- Which of the following elements in *Twelfth Night* is a typical feature of Shakespearean comedy?**
 - a sad funeral
 - a mistaken identity
 - a disastrous marriage
 - an unhappy ending
- Which character in *Twelfth Night* is the traditional role of the jester or fool?**
 - Malvolio
 - Sir Andrew Aguecheek
 - Feste
 - Sir Toby Belch
- In Act 1 Scene 5, who does Feste think is a fool to mourn their brother's death?**
 - Viola
 - Sebastian
 - Oliva
 - Antonio

Analysis

In the lecture [2.24], Dr. Duncan refers to mischief and merrymaking in Act 1 Scene 3. Read the following conversation from Act 1 Scene 3 between Sir Toby Belch and Sir Andrew Aguecheek. Consider how Shakespeare presents Sir Andrew Aguecheek as a foolish character. Annotate the extract with your ideas. An example has been completed for you.

Sir Andrew is not honourable, chivalrous or courageous

SIR TOBY:

O **knight**, thou lackest a cup of canary: when did I see thee
So put down?

SIR ANDREW:

Never in your life, I think; unless you see canary
Put me down. Methinks sometimes I have no more wit
Than a Christian or an ordinary man has: but I am a
Great eater of beef and I believe that does harm to my wit.

SIR TOBY:

No question.

SIR ANDREW:

An I thought that, I'd forswear it. I'll ride home tomorrow Sir Toby.

SIR TOBY:

Pourquoi, my dear knight?

SIR ANDREW:

What is 'pourquoi'? Do, or not do? I would I had bestowed that time in the tongues that I have in fencing, dancing and bear-baiting. O, had I but followed the arts!

Evaluation:

Read Malvolio's final line in the play and complete the task that follows.

MALVOLIO:

I'll be revenged on the whole pack of you.

[Exit]

OLIVIA:

He hath been most notoriously abused.

ORSINO:

Pursue him and entreat him to a peace.

One character for whom *Twelfth Night* does not have a happy ending is Malvolio.

Write an additional scene or a poem which explains how Malvolio gets his revenge on his tormentors.

- What events in the play would he refer to?
- Which characters would he feel have tormented him?
- What would be Malvolio's preferred revenge on each character?

Glossary

- **Folio** (noun) – a book or pamphlet in which each of the pages is a printed sheet of paper folded in half to make two leaves or pages
- **Ubiquity** (noun) – omnipresence, the state of being everywhere
- **Satire** (noun) – a way of criticizing people or ideas in a humorous way
- **Quintessential** (adjective) - the most typical or important example of something
- **Misrule** (noun) – a state of disorder or rebellion, the disruption of peace and order

- **Revel** (noun) – noisy celebration