

Twelfth Night Characters

Orsino, Duke of Illyria

A powerful nobleman in the country of Illyria. Orsino is lovesick for the beautiful Lady Olivia, but becomes more and more fond of his handsome new page boy, Cesario, who is actually a woman—Viola. A supreme egotist, in love with the idea of being in love!

Olivia, a Countess

A wealthy, beautiful and noble Illyrian lady, Olivia is courted by Orsino and Sir Andrew Aguecheek. To each of them she insists that she is in mourning for her brother, who has recently died, and will not marry for seven years.

Viola, aka Cesario.

A young woman of aristocratic birth, and the play's protagonist. Washed up on the shore of Illyria when her ship is wrecked in a storm, Viola decides to make her own way in the world. She disguises herself as a young man, calling herself "Cesario," and becomes a page to Duke Orsino.

Sebastian

Viola's lost twin brother. When he arrives in Illyria, traveling with Antonio, his close friend and protector, Sebastian discovers that many people think that they know him. Furthermore, the beautiful Lady Olivia, whom he has never met, wants to marry him. He seems more than willing to oblige!

Sir Toby Belch

Olivia's uncle. Olivia lets Sir Toby Belch live with her, but she does not approve of his rowdy behaviour, practical jokes, heavy drinking, late-night carousing or friends.

Sir Andrew Aguecheek

A friend of Sir Toby's. Sir Andrew Aguecheek attempts to court Olivia, but he doesn't stand a chance. He thinks that he is witty, brave, young, and good at languages and dancing, but we know he is anything but!

Maria

Olivia's clever, daring waiting-gentlewoman.

Malvolio

Olivia's straitlaced steward. His self-righteous and haughty attitude earn him the enmity of Sir Toby, Sir Andrew, and Maria, who play a cruel trick on him, making him believe that Olivia is in love with him. In his fantasies about marrying his mistress, he reveals a powerful ambition to rise above his social class.

Feste Male or female. Needs to be able to sing and if able to play guitar/ ukelele/ banjo and compose own music for songs, this would be an advantage!

The clown or fool of Olivia's household, Feste moves between Olivia's and Orsino's homes, earning a living by making pointed jokes, singing old songs, being generally witty, and offering good advice cloaked under a layer of foolishness. In spite of being a professional fool, Feste often seems the wisest character in the play.

Fabian Male or female

Fabian is a servant in Lady Olivia's household who loves a good laugh! This role provides the audience with someone they can rely on to help set the stage for what is going on, and to laugh along with during these antics

Antonio

The man who rescues Sebastian after his shipwreck. Antonio has become very fond of Sebastian, caring for him, accompanying him to Illyria, and furnishing him with money.

Valentine and Curio are both courtiers to Orsino. These roles may be doubled with the officers in the second half of the play.

Sea Captain, pulls Viola from the ship wreck.

May be doubled with the priest in the second half of the play