

WS 3: Who is Feste? - Quotes from Act 1 Scene 5

1. A good performer

Think of comedians, politicians, musicians, or other people who perform in front of people. You may also want to think back to your own experiences when watching performances by actors etc.

What qualities do these people need to gain status of a good and successful performer?

Point out three qualities of a good performer and write them down below.

1. creativity
2. good speaking skills
3. energetic appearance

Afterwards, share your thoughts with the class.

In *Twelfth Night* the character of Feste depicts the fool (royal jester) in the play. But who really is he?

Find quotations from Act 1 Scene 5 that characterize Feste and fill out the grid for the characterization below.



By E. Wiczorek



What others say about Feste:	What is revealed about the type of fool/person he is:	What Feste says about himself and others:	What is revealed about the type of fool/person he is:
<p>"Go to, y'are a dry fool: I'll no more of you." (CSS, I, p.21, l. 33-34)</p>	<p>Makes jokes that sometimes tire out people > Olivia is tired of his type of humor</p>	<p>"He shall see no fear." (CSS, I, p.19, l. 7)</p>	<p>fearless, open-minded, turns situations around into a more positive one</p>
<p>"... How your fooling grows old, and people dislike it." (CSS, I, p. 25, l. 91f.)</p>	<p>— —</p>	<p>"Better a witty fool than a foolish wit'..." (CSS, I, p. 21, l. 30)</p>	<p>clever with words, intelligent and self-aware</p>
<p>"Go look after him." (CSS, I, p. 25, l. 112)</p>	<p>Olivia's fool, servant, takes orders, Olivia trusts him</p>	<p>"The more fool, madonna, to mourn for your brother's soul being in heaven." (CSS, I, p. 23, l. 58f.)</p>	<p>ability to judge others: foolishness of Olivia's seven years of mourning for a brother who is in heaven now → self-reflective</p>
<p>"What's a drunken man like, fool?" (CSS, I, p 25, l. 107)</p>	<p>Gets asked questions, people know of his intelligence</p>	<p>"... collus non facit monachum. that's as much to say as I wear no motely in my brain." (CSS, I, p. 21, l. 45f.)</p>	<p>"Do not judge a book by its cover!" Feste is the fool, but that does not mean that he is dumb. → knows Latin, good with words</p>
		<p>"Many a good hanging prevents a bad marriage..." (CSS, I, p. 21, l. 16)</p>	<p>double meaning, reflects on relationships and is well aware of Olivia's. → reflects surroundings → good understanding of human behaviour</p>



2. Feste's character portrait

Write a portrait of Feste based on your close reading of quotes on or by Feste in the previous task (approx. 150 words). For your character portrait also consider how Feste could or should look like.

You can do the character portrait either in writing or by drawing Feste.

Feste personifies the fool in the play and is one of the main characters. He is a rather short male and is dressed in old, silly clothes. He wears a hat, short but loose trousers, stockings and a vest. Funny facial expressions are his trademark.

Feste serves at Olivia's household and takes orders from her. His job is all about entertaining people by singing, dancing and joking. However, beneath his foolish behaviour truths can be found. He uses his words in a clever way and plays with them and is therefore able to critically analyze and comment as well joke at the same time. Feste is intelligent, well aware of the situation and is an excellent judge of human behaviour. Because of all that, he is often considered to be the most intelligent and clever person in the play.

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