

WS 1: A jolly bunch (solutions)

Task 1: Read the first part of Act 1 Scene 3 (up to line 35). Maria and Sir Toby talk about the latest guest at Olivia's household: the knight Sir Andrew Aguecheek. They disagree in their judgement of Sir Aguecheek. Underline their arguments in the text and sort them in positive and negative descriptions. Write down your notes in the grid below.

Meet Sir Andrew Aguecheek	
Positive attributes	Negative attributes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He is a tall man (l. 16) - He is rich (l. 18) - He plays the viol-de-gamboys (l. 21-22) - He speaks three or four languages (l. 22) - Has all the good gifts of nature (l. 22) - Only scoundrels and slanderers speak bad of him (l. 28-29) - He drinks to the health of Olivia regularly (l. 31-34) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He will lose his wealth (l. 19) - He is a fool (l. 20) - He's a coward (l. 25) - He is an idiot who soon will be dead (l. 26-27) - He is s a drunk (l. 30) - He is using Olivia's health As an excuse to get drunk daily (l. 30)

Task 2 (in groups of 4): Prepare a performance of Sir Andrew's entrance (lines 36-65) based upon the information you found. Your task will be to act out two interpretations of the scene: one based on Sir Andrew's positive attributes and one dedicated to his negative attributes. After preparing Sir Andrew's entrance, perform the scene in front of another group, give each other feedback and discuss the important features of Sir Andrew's negative and positive portrayal.

Although this activity should be performed, a script instruction for potential performers is provided:

Enter Sir Andrew

Instructions: Sir Toby might be portrayed as standing or tripping drunkenly around. The instructions are portrayed in brackets like this (*impressive/cheerful*). You might like to use different colors for the emotions, one for the positive one and another for the negative ones.

Sir Andrew: (*strides impressively into the room/stumbles drunken into Sir Toby's arm*) Sir Toby Belch! How now, Sir Toby Belch?

Sir Toby: (*cheerful*) Sweet Sir Andrew!

Sir Andrew: (*uppish/mumbling*) Bless you, fair shrew.

Maria: (*annoyed*) And you too, sir.

Sir Toby: (*playful*) Accost, you too, sir.

Sir Andrew: (*inquisitive/befuddled*) What's that?

Sir Toby: (*serene*) My niece's chambermaid.

Sir Andrew: (*seductively/confused taking her hand and kissing it*) Good Mistress Accost, I desire better acquaintance.

Maria: (*displeased*) My name is Mary, sir.

Sir Andrew: (*flirtatious/bewildered*) Good Mary Accost –

Sir Toby: (*trying to explain the meaning of accost*) You mistake, knight. 'Accost' is front her, board her, woo her, assail her.

Sir Andrew: (*shocked/puzzled*) By my troth, I would not undertake her in this company. Is that the meaning of 'accost'?



Maria: Fare you well, gentlemen. (*leaving*)

Sir Toby: And thou let part so, Sir Andrew, would thou mightst never draw sword again.

(*While Sir Andrew and Maria interact with each other, Sir Toby might be laughing/smiling over Maria's jests*)

Sir Andrew: (*uppish/playful still holding Maria's hand*) And you part so, mistress, I would I might never draw sword again. Fair lady, do you think you have fools in hand?

Maria: (*annoyed*) Sir, I have not you by th'hand.

Sir Andrew: Marry, but you shall have, and here's my hand.

Maria: (*antagonising*) Now, sir, thought is free. I pray you bring your hand to th'buttery-bar and let it drink.

Sir Andrew: (*investigative/bewildered*) Wherefore, sweetheart? What's the metaphor?

Maria: (*sarcastic*) It's dry, sir.

Sir Andrew: (*outraged/lost*) Why, I think so: I am not such an ass but I can keep my hand dry. But what's your jest?

Maria: (*sarcastic and annoyed*) A dry jest, sir.

Sir Andrew: (*angry/puzzled or uppish*) Are you full of them?

Maria: (*annoyed but playful*) Ay, sir I have them at my fingers' ends; marry, now I let go your hand, I am barren.

Note: The feedback might vary between groups, depending on the students' performances.

