



Teaching Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* (1602): Act 1

Description

This is a collection of OER worksheets for Act 1 of William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Thematically, the activities serve as an introduction to the text in order to help the students to get a first overview of the main themes, characters and the language used in the play.

Main target group/level

Grade/year 10-13
(Einführungsphase, Qualifikationsphase)

Learning goals

Students work on developing an awareness and an understanding of the characters of the play by closely looking and the character Feste. Several creative tasks such as a modern reinterpretation of Shakespearean language serve as an interesting approach to the text and aim at fostering the students' mediation competence.

Indem die SuS sich kreativ mit den Themen, den Hauptcharakteren und der Sprache des ersten Aktes auseinandersetzen, werden sie nicht nur in das Theaterstück eingeführt, sondern fördern ihre funktionale kommunikative Kompetenz im Bereich Leseverstehen, (darstellendes) Sprechen und Sprachmittlung.

Why is this topic important for TEFL?

Shakespeare's works bring many advantages to the classroom, which vary from personal skills to method variety and orality. *Twelfth Night* in particular deals with many themes that can be relevant to students, such as power dynamics, love, gender roles and mental health. It also can serve to further develop the students' vocabulary and language awareness. Last but not least, by bringing Shakespeare to the classroom the students get the chance to encounter one of the most famous writers in the English language and for all time.

Main competence(s)

- reading (*Leseverstehen*)
- writing (*Schreiben*)
- speaking (*Sprechen*)
- listening (*Hörverstehen*)
- text- and media literacy (*Text- und Medienkompetenz*)

Learning contexts

Expected prior knowledge

- Prior knowledge about Shakespeare's works, his time and Elizabethan theatre is helpful but not necessarily needed.

Possible contexts of use

- the topic "Literature and the Arts": addressing the viewer/reader, interacting with and reacting towards fictional texts, creating texts (cf. *Fachanforderungen* (2014), p. 51)
- introductory lessons to Act 1 of *Twelfth Night*

Materials/resources

- [*Twelfth Night*, CSS edition] Shakespeare, William: *Twelfth Night* (Cambridge School Shakespeare, edited by Anthony Partington and Richard Spencer). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Worksheets in chronological order:

- WS 1: *A jolly bunch*
- WS 2: *Drunken (k)nights*
- WS 3: *Who is Feste?*
- WS 4: *Twelfth Night Act 1 (word search)*

Additional tools that you need:

- smartboard/beamer
- posters
- markers
- mobile devices (optional)