

Worksheets: Character Deep Dive

WS 6: Who is Malvolio?

- senior servant of Countess Olivia – the steward

Olivia: What do you think of this fool, Malvolio. Doth he not mend?

Malvolio: Yes, and shall do, till the pangs of death shake him. (CSS, I, v, l. 61-62)

O, you are sick of self-love, Malvolio, and taste with a distempered appetite. To be generous, guiltless, and of free disposition is to take those things for bird-bolts that you deem cannon bullets. (Olivia; CSS, I, v, l. 73-76)

Have you no wit, nor honesty, but to gabble like tinkers at this time of night? Do ye make an alehouse of my lady's house, that ye squeak out your coziers' catches without any mitigation or remorse of voice? Is there no respect of place, persons, nor time in you? (Malvolio; CSS, II, iii, l. 75-79)

Mistress Mary, if you prized my lady's favor at anything more than contempt, you would not give means for this uncivil rule; she shall know of it, by this hand. (Malvolio; CSS, II, iii, l. 103-105)

The devil a puritan that he is, or anything constantly but a time-pleaser, an affectioned ass, that cons state without book and utters it by great swarths. The best persuaded of himself: so crammed (as he thinks) with excellencies, that it is his grounds of faith that all that look on him love him. (Maria; CSS, II, iii, l. 124-128)

Marry, sir, sometimes he is a kind of **puritan**. (Maria; CSS, II, iii, l. 119)

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What is a Puritan?

Puritans were members of an English religious group back in the 16th and 17th century¹. They believed that church ceremonies had become too extravagant and lavish, and instead demanded a return to more simplistic forms of worship¹. They viewed entertainment and pleasure as something sinful by their nature, with many seeking a ban to the theatre, winter festivals, and other forms of 'frivolous' activities². Puritans believed that for a godly and divine⁴ life, one would have to work hard, be moral and be able to control oneself and one's urges³.

- 1) Cambridge Dictionary (n.d.). *Cambridge Academic Content Dictionary*. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/puritan
- 2) Bremer, Francis J. (2009). *Puritanism: A very short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, p. 58.
- 3) Cambridge Dictionary (n.d.). *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus*. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/puritan
- 4) Cambridge Dictionary (n.d.). *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus*. Retrieved August 16, 2023, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/divine>

lavish
frivolous
urge
divine

here: expensive; more than is necessary
not having any serious use or value; of little importance
a strong desire or wish that is difficult to control
connected with a god or like a god

What does Mary's comparison tell us about Malvolio?



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WS 7: Who is Sir Toby Belch?

- Countess Olivia's uncle

By my troth, Sir Toby, you must come in earlier o' nights. Your cousin my lady, takes great exception to your ill hours. (Maria; CSS, I, iii, l. 3-4)

That quaffing and drinking will undo you. (Maria; CSS, I, iii, l. 11)

With drinking healths to my niece! I'll drink to her as long as there is passage in my throat and drink in Illyria. (Sir Toby; CSS, I, iii, l. 31-32)

Sir Toby: Who, Sir Andrew Aguecheek?

Maria: Ay, he.

Sir Toby: He's as tall a man as any's in Illyria.

Maria: What's that to th' purpose?

Sir Toby: Why, he has three thousand ducats a year. (CSS, I, iii, ll. 14-18)

(*To Malvolio*) Go sir, rub your chain with crumbs. (Sir Toby, CSS, II, iii, l. 101)

As Olivia's steward, Malvolio wears a chain of office. What does it say about Sir Toby that he reminds Malvolio of this? And what does it say about their relationship?

(*About Maria*) She's a beagle, true bred, and one that adores me. (Sir Toby; CSS; II, iii, l. 151)

I could marry this wench for this device. (Sir Toby; CSS, II, v, l. 150)



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WS 8: Who is Sir Andrew Aguecheek?

- a knight
- acquainted with Sir Toby
- 'wannabe' suitor to Olivia

He's a very fool and a prodigal. (Maria; CSS, I, iii, l. 19-20)

For besides that he's a fool, he's a great quarreller; and but that he hath the gift of a coward. (Maria; CSS, I, iii, l. 24-25)

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 not harm my wit. (Sir Andrew; CSS, I, iii, l. 70-72)

I would I had bestowed that time in the tongues that I have in fencing, dancing, and bear-baiting. (Sir Andrew; CSS, I, iii, l. 77-79)

I'll stay a month longer. I am a fellow o'th'strangest mind i'th'world: I delight in masques and revels sometimes altogether. (Sir Andrew; CSS, I, iii, l. 92-93)

Sir Andrew: Faith. I'll home tomorrow, Sir Toby; your niece will not be seen [...].

Sir Toby: She'll none o'th'count; she'll not match above her degree, neither in estate, years, nor wit.[...]

Sir Andrew: I'll stay a month longer. (CSS. I, iii, l. 84-93)

If I cannot recover your niece, I am a foul way out. (Sir Andrew; CSS, II, iii, l.155)

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WS 9: Who is Fabian?

- a servant in Countess Olivia's household
- a character sometimes replaced with Maria in performances, because he does not have many appearances

Sir Toby Belch: Come thy ways, Signior Fabian.

Fabian: Nay, I'll come. If I lose a scruple of this sport, let me be boiled to death with melancholy.

'Sir Toby Belch: Wouldst thou not be glad to have the niggardly rascally sheep-biter come by some notable shame?

Fabian: I would exult, man: you know, he brought me out o'favour with my lady about a bear-baiting here. (CSS, II, v, l. 1-7)

O, peace! Contemplation makes a rare turkey-cock of him: how he jets under his advanced plumes! (Fabian; CSS, II, v, l. 26-27)

I will not give my part of this sport for a pension of thousands to be paid from the sophy. (Fabian; CSS, II, v, l. 148-149)

Sir Andrew Aguecheek: 'Slight, will you make an ass o' me?

Fabian: I will prove it legitimate, sir, upon the oaths of judgment and reason. (CSS, III, ii, l. 9-11)

Maria: Nay, pursue him now, lest the device take air and taint.

Fabian: Why, we shall make him mad indeed. (CSS, III, iv, l. 111-112)

Viola: Pray you, sir, do you know of this matter?

Fabian: I know the knight is incensed against you, even to a mortal arbitrement; but nothing of the circumstance more. (CSS, III, iv, l. 220-222)

