

WS 4: The Language of Love

Viola, after having spoken to Olivia, is once again at Orsino's palace. They begin talking about love and being in love, as Orsino notices that "Cesario" seems to have a crush. During this exchange, they argue about ideals and the expression of love, while Viola tries to avoid talking about her feelings for the Duke - trying not to confess the truth about herself.



Orsino and Viola by Frederick Richard Pickersgill

https://de.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:Orsino_and_viola_Frederick_Richard_Pickersgill.jpg

Much of the comedy in the play is generated by the gender confusion and sexual tension between the characters who appear to be something that they are not. Let's talk about that!

1. Get together with a partner! Read Act 2 Scene 4, l. 89-120 together.

- First, read it silently.
- Then, decide who's going to take which part and read it out loud.

2. Together discuss the following questions and take notes.

- Does Viola give hints about her true identity to Orsino without directly revealing it?
- How do you think Viola feels about her disguise at this moment?
- In your own words:
 - What does Duke Orsino say about a woman's capacity to love?
 - Why do you think Viola feels the need to argue with Orsino at that moment?
- What are Orsino's feelings toward Olivia? Did the conversation with Viola/"Cesario" change anything?

3. Read the excerpt again. Did anything change in the way you read it now (i.e. tone, delivery, emotions expressed, ...)?

