



## Teaching Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* (1602): Act 2

### Description

This is a collection of OER worksheets for Act 2 of William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Thematically, the activities center around non-conformative lifestyles, crossdressing, and LGBTQIA+. The materials can be easily adapted to foster a variety of competences.

### Main target group/level

Grade/year 10-13  
(Einführungsphase, Qualifikationsphase)

### Learning goals

Students gain a deeper understanding of Shakespeare and his play *Twelfth Night*. They are able to critically think about societal and in particular about gender and diversity issues brought up in the play. They engage with the text, characters and their relationships. They can meaningfully transfer their knowledge from the text onto the target culture as well as relate it to their own.

Indem die Schüler\*innen kritisch über die und mit denen in *Twelfth Night* dargestellten gesellschaftlichen Themen, dem Text, den Charakteren sowie deren Beziehungen zueinander nachdenken und arbeiten, erhalten sie ein vertieftes Verständnis und Wissen von Shakespeare und seinem Werk. Die Schüler\*innen können dieses Wissen sinnvoll auf die Zielkultur anwenden und in Relation zu ihrer eigenen Kultur setzen.

### 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

- basic knowledge about the writer, his work and the historical and cultural context
- basic understanding of crossdressing, same-sex love and nonconventional attraction and ability to work sensitively and respectfully with these topics

#### 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)
- Raising awareness for topics such as crossdressing and LGBTQIA+ for visibility and representation of non-heteronormativity

## 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: *What is love?*
- WS 2: *Illusions and Disguise*
- WS 3: *Proportionate Reactions*
- WS 4: *The Language of Love*
- WS 5: *Character Deep Dive*
- WS 6: *Who is Malvolio?*
- WS 7: *Who is Sir Toby Belch?*
- WS 8: *Who is Sir Andrew Aguecheek?*
- WS 9: *Who is Fabian?*
- WS 10: *Annotations Act 2*

### Online dictionaries:

- *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English Online (LDCE)*: <https://www.ldoceonline.com>
- *Oxford Learner's Dictionary*: <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>
- *Macmillan Dictionary*: <https://www.macmillandictionary.com>
- *Macmillan Thesaurus*: <https://www.macmillanthesaurus.com>