

Twelfth Night: Act 2 Scene 3

WS 3: Proportionate Reactions

1)

- l. 64: Malvolio can tell the guests to leave.
- l. 67: Malvolio is trying to find flaws with the guests to report back to Olivia.
- l. 75-76: Malvolio calls Sir Toby and Sir Andrew “masters” (he is being respectful in regard to their titles) but he also accuses them to be mad, stupid and rude.
- l. 79: Malvolio asks if they have no respect and don’t care that Olivia is still mourning (their carousing is inappropriate in his opinion).
- l. 81: Malvolio is a messenger of Olivia and does her bidding.
- l. 97-99: Malvolio is the steward and has the highest position of Olivia’s servants, but Sir Toby looks down on him because he is not a nobleman. Sir Toby tells Malvolio he has no right to prohibit them to be merry just because he himself doesn’t want to join.
- l. 119: Malvolio behaves like a puritan sometimes.
- l. 125-128: Malvolio thinks too highly of himself and acts smart although he isn’t.

2)

Oral exercise: for arguments regarding Malvolio see above.

- Sir Toby looks down on Malvolio.
- Neither Sir Toby nor Sir Andrew takes Malvolio seriously and they keep on drinking and singing and dismiss him.
- Sir Toby claims that they are politicians and that the rules of the house don’t apply to him because he is related to Olivia.
- The guests are both noblemen and must be treated with respect – they are of a higher social standing than Malvolio (he is being extremely rude by calling them out as he did in l. 75-79).
- They are not hurting anyone with their party and Malvolio could just leave if he doesn’t want to join.
- Malvolio is a boring stickler for the rules that wants to feel more important than he really is.



Addition, similar discourses today:

- People with conservative mindsets who do not like change & older people blaming younger people for being disrespectful/not serious enough.
- Conflicts between older and younger people about fun in life.
- Politicians that abuse their power and think of themselves as if above the law.
- Activists who want to achieve their goals in a way that is not socially accepted.
- Any example of civil disobedience that got out of hand.

