



Teaching Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* (1602): Act 4

Description

This is a collection of OER worksheets for Act 4 of William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Thematically, the activities center around the themes of madness as well as love and relationships. The analysis of the inner thoughts and state of minds of different characters is particularly emphasized.

Main target group/level

Grade/year 10-13
(Einführungsphase, Qualifikationsphase)

Learning goals

Students work on developing a deeper awareness and understanding of the characters of the play by closely analyzing their states of mind and their interpersonal relationships. Several creative tasks serve as the basis to foster the students' active interpretation by expressly combining textual knowledge with the many unwritten gaps of this act that need to be filled by the reader/viewer of the play.

Indem die Schüler*innen die Gedankenprozesse und zwischenmenschlichen Beziehungen der Charaktere analysieren, entwickeln sie ein tieferes Bewusstsein und Verständnis für sie. Verschiedene kreative Aufgaben dienen als Basis für die Interpretation der Schüler*innen, indem Textarbeit mit den vielen Leerstellen des Aktes, die vom Leser/Zuschauer gefüllt werden müssen, kombiniert wird.

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

- Students have read Act 4 at home or in a previous lesson.
- Students have general knowledge about the play and its characters, about Shakespeare, his time, his works and the dramatic conventions of the Elizabethan theatre.

Possible contexts of use

- This (very short) act from *Twelfth Night* can be used as an extract from one of Shakespeare's very popular comedies as part of a teaching unit focusing on Shakespeare. This can also be done without teaching the entire play.
- the topic "Literature and the Arts": addressing the viewer/reader, interacting with and reacting towards fictional texts, creating texts (cf. *Fachanforderungen* (2014), p. 51)

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.
- Various stage productions:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwutGHFcMmQ>
 - <https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/twelfthnight-full-play-video/twelfth-night-full-play-video/>

Worksheets in chronological order:

- WS 1: *Freeze frames*
- WS 2: *Malvolio's thoughts*
- WS 3: *Madness*
- WS 4: *CAWA – the method*
- WS 5: *Madness or Mental Health?*
- WS 6: *Love is... confusion?*
- WS 7: *The silent priest*