



TEACHER GUIDE

GRADES 9-12

COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM BASED LESSON PLANS

Twelfth Night

William Shakespeare



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

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Skills and Strategies

Thinking

Brainstorming, analysis

Vocabulary

Vocabulary words and maps, definitions

Comprehension

Predicting, comparison/contrast, causality

Literary Elements

Subplots, story elements, characterization, point of view, conflict, irony, allusion, symbolism, foreshadowing, and similes/metaphors

Writing

Reports, creative writing, research

Listening/Speaking

Discussion

Introduction to the Play

Setting

Illyria: possibly based on the word illusion. Although such a place existed on the Adriatic coast, the setting for *Twelfth Night* apparently is imaginary and is designed to create the image of a faraway place of romantic appeal. The comedy itself is a series of mirages and reflections between what is real and what is unreal. Portions of the play also occur on the sea coast near Illyria. The play covers a period of three months (see 5.1.99, p. 93).

Theme

The thematic material for the primary plot is romantic love which must work its way through a series of complications, including several cases of mistaken identity, to a happy ending. The main plot might be considered two plots in one: Orsino's wooing of Olivia and Olivia's complicated situation involving Viola and Sebastian. The theme of the subplot is trickery and disgrace: a group of tricksters seek to dupe and disgrace a pompous, self-righteous man. Shakespeare employs disguise, mistaken identity, self-deception, trickery, and confusion to attain his comedic goal.

Form

Comic form: a complex plot, interwoven with subplots, which leads to a happy ending.

Summary of the Play

Set in the seaport of Illyria, this comedy features a main plot and various subplots, all skillfully interwoven and ultimately coming together for a masterful final scene. The main plot centers around the nobility of Illyria. Duke Orsino vows his love for the Countess Olivia, who rejects his overtures of love. Lovely young Viola, recently shipwrecked with her twin brother Sebastian, disguises herself as Cesario and enters Orsino's employ as a page. Orsino sends Cesario (Viola) to plead his case before Olivia; however, the lady again rejects Orsino and falls in love with the page. This triangle produces various complications, especially when Cesario falls in love with Orsino.

The primary subplot revolves around a group of pranksters. This group includes Sir Toby Belch, Lady Olivia's uncle; his friend Sir Andrew Aguecheek; Maria, Olivia's waiting woman; Fabian, another of Olivia's servants; and Feste, the Clown. Sir Andrew's desire to woo Olivia heightens the comedy of the main plot. This group devise a scheme to humiliate Malvolio, Olivia's pompous, puritanical steward, who also fantasizes about Olivia's love.

In the final scene, Sebastian, whom Viola presumed drowned, reappears and marries Olivia; Viola reveals her true identity and marries Orsino; Sir Toby marries Maria. Fabian confesses the scheme against Malvolio, who leaves vowing revenge. The Clown concludes the scene with a reflective song about man's development from birth to death.

Using Character Webs in the Novel Unit Approach

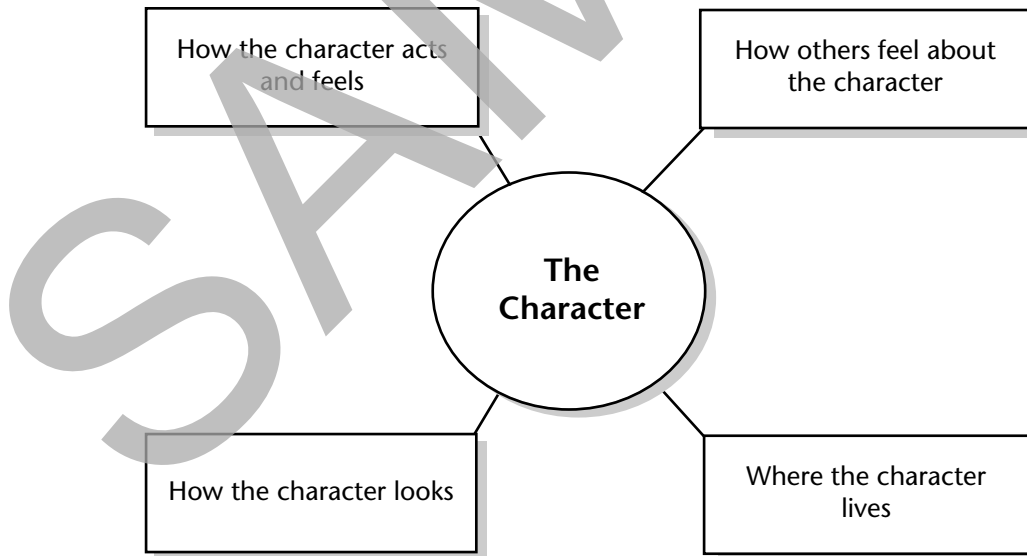
Attribute Webs are simply a visual representation of a character from the novel. They provide a systematic way for the students to organize and recap the information they have about a particular character. Attribute webs may be used after reading the novel to recapitulate information about a particular character or completed gradually as information unfolds, done individually, or finished as a group project.

One type of character attribute web uses these divisions:

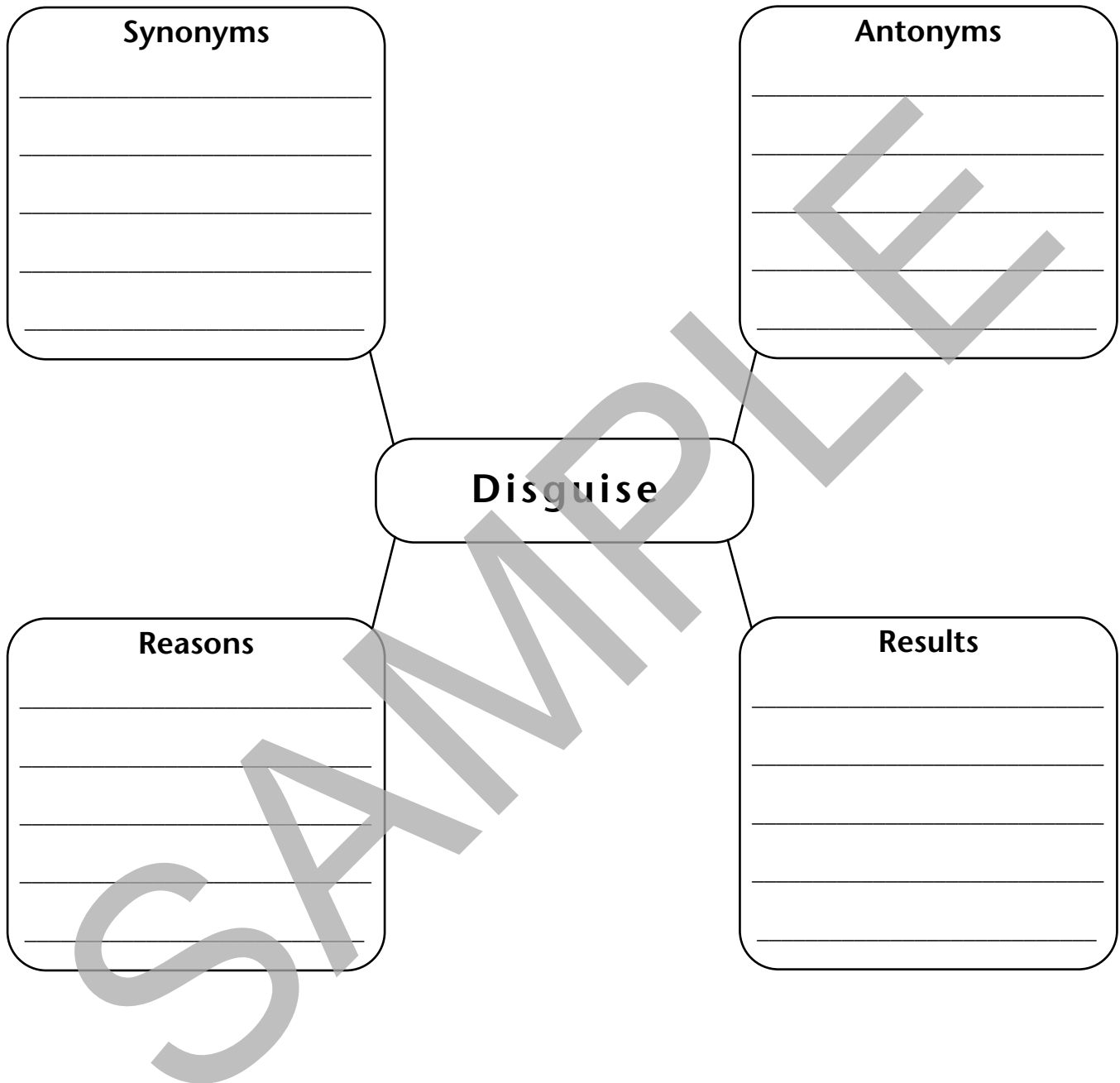
- How a character acts and feels. (How does the character feel in this picture? How would you feel if this happened to you? How do you think the character feels?)
- How a character looks. (Close your eyes and picture the character. Describe him to me.)
- Where a character lives. (Where and when does the character live?)
- How others feel about the character. (How does another specific character feel about our character?)

In group discussion about the student attribute webs and specific characters, the teacher can ask for backup proof from the novel. You can also include inferential thinking.

Attribute webs need not be confined to characters. They may also be used to organize information about a concept, object or place.



Framework for Brainstorming Ideas



Possible answers: *Synonyms:* deception, fake, simulation, synthetic, character, persona, alias, pseudonym, role; *Antonyms:* actual, genuine, real, right, true, valid; *Reasons:* hide truth, playacting, trick others, assume new identity; *Results:* uncertainty, doubt, insecurity, hesitancy, confusion, suspense, tension, anxiety, adventure, risk

Act 3

1. courtier (54): a person often present at court of a king, prince, etc.; court attendant
2. whet (55): sharpen
3. upbraid (56): scold, reproach; reprove severely
4. laudable (59): worthy of praise
5. presage (60): omen, indication of something to come
6. pedant (60): one who overvalues petty details of book learning, grammar, etc.
7. acquit (71): settle, as with a debt; declare innocent
8. implacable (72): not to be appeased

Act 4

1. curate (82): clergyman, assistant to parish priest
2. requite (86): repay, retaliate
3. plight (88): to pledge; promise

Act 5

1. anon (91): by and by
2. jocund (94): merry
3. beguiled (94): deceived
4. dissembling (95): concealing or disguising
5. usurped (98): seized wrongfully
6. semblance (100): appearance, likeness, image
7. peruse (101): read slowly and carefully

Glossary

The following words are listed in the student packet with instructions to write the meanings. The teachers' guide includes the meanings and (when applicable) examples from the play's script. Examples are noted by act, scene, and line.

1. **allusion:** a figure of speech that makes a brief or casual reference to a historical or literary figure, event, or object, usually Biblical or historical in nature. Shakespeare frequently used Biblical allusions.
 - (a) 1.2.15: Arion (Orion), a bard from classical mythology who is saved by a dolphin when he leaps into the sea to escape murderous sailors (5)
 - (b) 1.3.135: Taurus, zodiac bull (12)
 - (c) 2.5.41: Jezebel, wicked wife of King Ahab in the Bible (45)
 - (d) 2.5.94: Lucrece, symbol of chastity—noble Roman matron who stabs herself after being raped (46)

Sample Vocabulary Map

Synonyms

magazine cut-out, drawing, or symbol that shows what the word means:

word:

definition in your own words:

word used in a sentence:
