Viola's speech

Act 2 Scene 2

The following pages include word, sentence and text level activities based around VIola's monologue in Act 2 Scene 2.

Children could record their answers using the given templates or the session could be primarily discussion based.

For Upper KS2, the activities can be more child led whereas for Lower KS2 a more guided session would be appropriate.

The analysis of the language and imagery used in this extract would be an excellent basis for a perfomance of this speech or a deeper character study of Viola.

Note: the original text has been adapted for this extract.

You can find a video of the speech here.



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Twelfth Night

Reading

I left no ring with her. What means this lady?
Fortune forbid my outside have not charmed her!
She made good view of me, indeed so much
That methought her eyes had lost her tongue,
For she did speak in starts distractedly.
She loves me, sure!
I am the man. If it be so, as 'tis,
Poor lady, she were better love a dream.
Disguise, I see thou art a wickedness
Wherein the pregnant enemy does much.
How will this fadge? My master loves her dearly,
And I, poor monster, fond as much on him,
And she, mistaken, seems to dote on me.
What will become of this? As I am man,
My state is desperate for my master's love.
As I am woman (now, alas the day!),
What thriftless sighs shall poor Olivia breathe!
O Time, thou must untangle this, not I.
It is too hard a knot for me t' untie.

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Word Level Activities

FInd 4 words in the text that you have not heard before. Use a dictionary to find the meaning of the word

Word	Meaning

In this speech, Viola is realising that Olivia is in love with her and dispairing at the love triangle that has formed between Olivia, Orsino and herself. In the box below, write down all the words that Shakespeare uses to emphasise that this is difficult situation.

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Sentence Level Activities

Find the lines in the text that match the sentences below.

She can't have been impressed by how I look.

She spoke in a very confused way.

How will this all turn out?

I really wish Orsino loved me!

What wasted feelings Olivia has.

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Text Level Activities

Summarise what Viola is saying in this monologue.

Oracy

Discuss your ideas with a partner. You can use the box below each question to write down any key quotes or other evidence to support your ideas.

How would you describe Viola after reading this speech? Is she strong, weak, passionate, foolish? Why do you think this?

Which lines do you think are the most emotive? Why?

What effect is Shakespeare trying to create in this speech? How does he do this?

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