Design some stockings



In the play 'Twelfth Night', members of Olivia's household plot to expose the self-love and aspirations of the steward, Malvolio. Her gentlewoman Maria, along with Olivia's uncle, Sir Toby Belch, and his friend Sir Andrew, use a letter to trick Malvolio into believing Olivia loves him. The letter demands that Malvolio appear in yellow stockings, cross-gartered, and smiling to show his love for Olivia.

The colour yellow symbolises both hope and renewal, but also jealousy and treachery. Rich people could afford to wear bright yellow which was dyed using saffron. Saffron was expensive as it was imported from abroad. Cheaper yellow dyes were made from the plant weld which produced a paler colour. Weld seeds were commonly known as "dyer's rocket" or "dyer's broom".

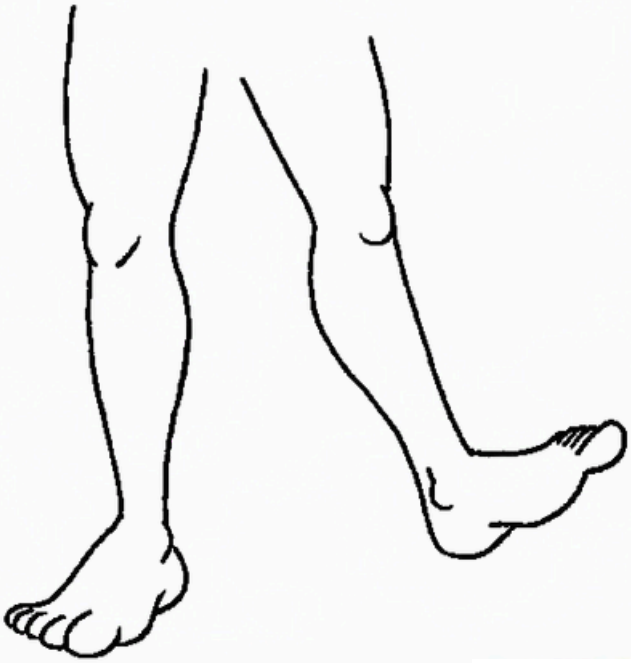
Brightly coloured stockings were seen as a sign of being young and free. There was a popular Elizabethan street song called 'Give Me My Yellow Hose Again' where a husband longs for the days before he was married.

It was also the fashion in Elizabethan times for men to have shapely legs. Sometimes they would pad their hose (thick tights) to give their legs a better shape. Garters were worn to keep the hose from falling down.

Activity:

Design your own stockings.

You could add detail to show even more wealth!



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