Hot seating

This activity helps children get to know the characters better, and to think about who they are and how they make their decisions. It encourages children to be creative, and to think about their own interpretations of each character.

Place a chair at the front of the room. Chose a volunteer to sit in this 'hot seat.' They must become one of the characters from the play – you can designate who, or let the child chose who they would like to become. Ask them to think about how this character might sit. For example, Malvolio may have a very different posture to Viola/Cesario.

Now ask the child to think about how the character might talk. What does their voice sound like? Are they a bold, confident character, or a shy character? The rest of the class may now ask this character questions. The child on the hot seat must answer these questions as if they are the character.

Example questions

For Viola

- How did you feel when you landed in Illyria?
- How did you feel when you realised Olivia had fallen in love with you?
- What did it feel like to see Sebastian again?

For Orsino:

- How did you feel when Olivia would not meet you?
- What did you think when you heard Olivia had married Cesario?
- Were you angry when you realised Viola had been disguised as Cesario?



For Malvolio:

- How did you feel when you realised that Olivia was not love with you?
- How are you going to get your revenge?

If children say something that contradicts the text, remind them of the plot, steering them back towards the story.

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