English

Feste

Play: *Twelfth Night*

Favourite quotes:



Foolery, sir, does walk about the orb like the sun, it shines everywhere.

(Foolery, sir, moves around the earth like the sun, it is everywhere.)

Feste is a fool, or comedian. He says that even though his job is to be a fool, there are many more people in the world who are much more foolish than him!

Better a witty fool than a foolish wit.

(It is better to be silly on purpose, than to be silly when you are trying to be clever!)

A serving woman called Maria calls Feste a rogue and a troublemaker. Once she has left, Feste says that he would rather be a clever comedian, who is silly on purpose, than a serious person who makes silly mistakes!

Nothing that is so, is so.

(Nothing is what it is.)

Feste bumps into Cesario, who he has met before. He is very confused when Cesario does not recognise him, and says that they have never met before. It turns out that it is not Cesario (Viola), but her twin brother, Sebastian… who has indeed never met Feste before. Cesario and Sebastian look so alike that Feste has confused them!

Appearance

I am a jester. My job is to make people laugh, so I might wear a funny costume. I spend a lot of the play observing people. Perhaps I would wear something very normal, so that I can watch and listen to people without them noticing me.

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What am I like?

I am a fool, or jester, in Olivia's house. I am an entertainer, and I can sing and play music.

I am very funny, and rather daring. I am able to say outrageous (and sometimes very rude) things to Olivia and other noble people that no one else would be allowed to say. I like being able to speak the truth.

I am very witty and clever. I like to play with words to make jokes, trick people, and to say wise things about the world.

I am observant, and aware of the world around me. I watch people and try to understand their thoughts and emotions and sometimes I give them advice.

What happens to me in the play

I am a jester in Olivia's court. I watch the whole story unfold.

Duke Orsino is in love with my mistress Olivia. One day, Orsino sends his new servant, called Cesario, with a message of love for Olivia. Olivia isn't interested in Orsino… but she falls desperately in love with Cesario! She gives him gifts and tries to get him to love her.

In the meantime, the servants and I play a trick on Malvolio. He is Olivia's butler, and he is grumpy and always ruins our fun. Malvolio loves Olivia. We write a letter in Olivia's handwriting that says she will fall in love with him if he wears silly yellow stockings and smiles all the time! Olivia thinks Malvolio has gone mad, and locks him up! This teaches Malvolio a lesson for being so mean to us all.

At the end of the play, I meet Cesario again, but he doesn't seem to recognise me. It turns out that this man is not Cesario, but Cesario's twin brother Sebatian! And Cesario is not actually a man, but a girl called Viola who has been dressed as a boy all along! Orsino and Viola get married, and Olivia and Sebastian get married.

The problem or dilemma I have to face

I observe lots of problems in the play. I see that Orsino loves Olivia, but Oliva loves Cesario, and it turns out that Cesario is a girl and is in love with Orsino! I watch this all unfold, and give advice where I can. I see that Malvolio is being cruel to the servants, so I help them to trick him and teach him a lesson.

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How do I change over time?

I see everyone else changing throughout the play. I watch as they all fall in and out of love, and eventually marry the right people. I don't change much. I always try to speak the truth to others, and to be true to myself.

What I'm interested in

I am interested in people, and working out why they do the things they do.

I am interested in telling the truth to everyone, even the rich and noble people. Most people wouldn't dare to say rude things about people like Lady Olivia and Duke Orsino, but I am not afraid to make fun of them, and give them honest advice.

What I'm afraid of

I'm not afraid of many things. I am a very practical person, I am realistic, and I see that life can be hard sometimes. I am a melancholy character, but I like to make others laugh.

Who do I get on with?

I am loyal to my mistress, Olivia.

I get on well with Maria. She is smart and wise, like me. We like to make fun of each other, but we work well together too. I help her to trick grumpy Malvolio.

Who do I clash with?

I don't like Malvolio. I think he is grumpy and arrogant. I help the other servants to trick him, and teach him a lesson for thinking he is better than the rest of us.

What am I most proud of?

I am most proud of my witty way with words. I can win any argument with a joke or a riddle, and I am very wise.

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How have I been portrayed?

English



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