

**TWELFTH NIGHT**  
**READING COMPREHENSION**  
**ACT 3**  
**YEAR 3 AND 4**

As the garden door closed, leaving the two alone, Viola turned to Olivia. “Madam...” she stopped. Olivia was staring at her in a way that made her feel very peculiar. She knew that look from somewhere. Where? And why was it making her feel so uncomfortable? Hmmm...

Oh, no. She got it. Wide eyes? Check. Red cheeks? Check. Breathing hard? Check.

This was exactly how she herself had stared at Orsino. And, if she didn’t do something about it quickly, Olivia was going to tell her that she loved her! Oh no! Oh yes! For even now Olivia was stretching out her hand.

“Give me your hand sir...”

Viola stared at the hand for a moment, uncertain what to do. Then, she swiftly reached out, grasped it and shook it vigorously. After that she bowed, bowed again and shook the hand once more.

**1. Where is Viola?**

At home	<input type="checkbox"/>	Orsino’s Court	<input type="checkbox"/>
The beach	<input type="checkbox"/>	Olivia’s house	<input type="checkbox"/>

**2. ‘Olivia was staring at her in a way that made her feel very peculiar.’**

**Tick the synonym for ‘peculiar’**

strange	<input type="checkbox"/>	happy	<input type="checkbox"/>
angry	<input type="checkbox"/>	sad	<input type="checkbox"/>

**3. A. What three things show that Olivia is in love with Viola**

i. \_\_\_\_\_

ii. \_\_\_\_\_

iii. \_\_\_\_\_

**B. How does Viola recognise these symptoms of being in love?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4. What does Viola do to try and stop Olivia telling her that she loves her?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

“My duty madam and most humble service. Madam, I come to whet your gentle thoughts on Orsino’s behalf.”

Thinking that this was a pretty successful attempt to make things seem more business-like, Viola tried to withdraw her hand. Olivia would not let go.

Viola tugged.

Olivia tugged back.

Viola tugged harder.

Olivia tugged harder still, a look of fierce determination on her face.

“O, by your leave, I pray you, I bade you never speak again of him!”

“Dear lady,” Viola began, pulling ever more forcefully until, without warning, Olivia let go, only to fling herself at Viola’s legs, grasping them fervently.

“Cesario, by the roses of the spring, by maidenhood, honour, truth and everything,  
I love thee so”

5. What does Viola try to 'withdraw' from Olivia?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Write another word for 'tugged'

\_\_\_\_\_

7. "O, by your leave, I pray you, I bade you never speak again of him!"

Who does Olivia mean by '*him*'

Malvolio

Duke Orsino

Antonio

Sebastian

8. Complete this sentence...

"Cesario, by the roses of the spring, by maidenhood, honour, truth

and everything, \_\_\_\_\_

9. What does 'thee' mean? Tick one box

me

you

her

him

10. Viola loves Olivia.

Tick one box

TRUE

FALSE

Viola swayed from side to side, breaking out in a sweat at the effort to stay upright. She looked desperately at the door and started to try to edge herself towards it. Olivia, who was squeezing her legs like an Illyrian boa constrictor, was not making this easy. Viola began.

“By innocence I swear and by my youth,” she paused, trying unsuccessfully to extricate her left leg from Olivia’s grasp, “I have one heart, one bosom, and one truth, and that no woman has.” Finally, and with a gigantic effort, Viola pogoed the two of them towards the garden door. With the handle in Viola’s grasp, Olivia finally seemed to give up and released her.

Seizing the opportunity, Viola flung the door wide and jumped through, saying, as she did so:

“And so adieu, good madam; never more will I my master’s tears to you deplore.”

11. Write down a phrase from the text above that shows Viola is feeling slightly sick that Olivia has declared her love to her

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12. Write down the simile the author uses to describe how Olivia is squeezing Viola’s legs

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13. When does Olivia finally seem to give up? Tick one box

When Viola shouts at her

When Viola is holding the garden door handle

When Viola falls over

When Olivia falls over

**14. Seizing the opportunity, Viola flung the door wide and jumped through, saying, as she did so:**

Write down the **verb** that shows

A. how quickly Viola opened the door

---

B. how Viola travelled through the door

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**15. “*And so adieu, good madam; never more will I my master’s tears to you deplore.*”**

Write the one word from the quote above that means ‘Goodbye’

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**TWELFTH NIGHT  
READING COMPREHENSION  
ANSWERS  
ACT 3  
YEAR 3 AND 4**

**1. Where is Viola?**

The beach  Olivia's house

**2. 'Olivia was staring at her in a way that made her feel very peculiar.'**

**Tick the synonym for 'peculiar'**

strange  happy

**3. A. What three things show that Olivia is in love with Viola**

- i. Wide eyes
- ii. Red cheeks
- iii. Breathing hard

**B. How does Viola recognise these symptoms of being in love?**

Because that's how she stares at Orsino

**4. What does Viola do to try and stop Olivia telling her that she loves her?**

Shook her hand vigorously and bowed, and bowed again

**5. What does Viola try to 'withdraw' from Olivia?**

Her hand

**6. Write another word for 'tugged'**

pulled

7. ***“O, by your leave, I pray you, I bade you never speak again of him!”***

Who does Olivia mean by **‘him’**

**Duke Orsino**

8. **Complete this sentence...**

“Cesario, by the roses of the spring, by maidenhood, honour, truth

and everything, **I love thee so**

9. **What does ‘thee’ mean? Tick one box**

you

10. **Viola loves Olivia.**

**Tick one box**

**TRUE**

**FALSE**

11. Write down a phrase from the text above that shows Viola is feeling slightly sick that Olivia has declared her love to her

**swayed from side to side  
breaking out in a sweat  
looked desperately at the door**

12. Write down the simile the author uses to describe how Olivia is squeezing Viola’s legs

**like an Illyrian boa constrictor**

13. **When does Olivia finally seem to give up? Tick one box**

When Viola is holding the garden door handle

14. **Seizing the opportunity, Viola flung the door wide and jumped through, saying, as she did so:**

Write down the **verb** that shows

A. how quickly Viola opened the door

**flung**

B. how Viola travelled through the door

**jumped**

**15. “And so adieu, good madam; never more will I my master’s tears to you deplore.”**

Write the one word from the quote above that means ‘Goodbye’

***adieu***