

TWELFTH NIGHT
READING COMPREHENSION
ACT 1
YEAR 3 AND 4

They had had no chance. The storm had been too powerful: the waves like mountains, the wind tearing at the boat like a ravenous beast, pulling it to pieces. Now, those who had survived helped each other wearily out of the water. One amongst them, a young woman named Viola, searched desperately amongst those remaining faces, willing each one to be her brother's. To no avail. At last, her shoulders slumped and she sat down on the sand, her clothes dripping seawater, her face wet with tears. She turned to the captain and the crew that were left.

“What country, friends, is this?” she asked.

Helping her to her feet, the captain answered, “This is Illyria, lady.”

1. Which word describes what the storm was like? Tick **ONE** answer

Raging

Powerful

Stormy

Windy

2. What simile is used to describe the waves? Use a direct quote from the text

3. What was tearing at the boat ‘like a ravenous beast’?

The wind

The mountains

The sea

The sky

4. Tick one synonym for 'desperately'

hopelessly

calmly

angrily

sadly

5. Who was Viola searching for? Tick one box

Her brother

Her cousin

Her mum

Her dad

6. Why was Viola's face 'wet with tears'?

7. What question does Viola ask the crew? Use a direct quote from the text.

8. A. Who told Viola where they were?

B. Where is Viola?

Viola shook herself, as if waking from a sleep. Though Death had come to claim her brother, Life did not care. There were problems to be solved: she was shipwrecked on a foreign shore, with no money, no friends and no family. “Who governs here?” Viola wanted to know.

“Orsino,” the captain answered, “a noble duke, in nature as in name.” Then he added what we already know, that Orsino was hopelessly in love with Olivia, who herself was in mourning for a dead father and... a dead brother.

“O that I served that lady!”

Not possible, said the captain; she will admit no one to her house. Well then, thought Viola, perhaps she would have to try and find work at the house of Orsino. As a Duke, he would employ only manservants; so, would the captain and crew help disguise her as a boy? In answer, one of the young sailors held out his coat.

- 9. Viola realises she is shipwrecked in a strange place. What three things does she not have? Use direct quotes from the text**

i. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

- 10. Who ‘governs’ Ilyria? Tick one box**

Princess Orsino

Prince Orsino

Duke Orsino

King Orsino

11. Who was Olivia in mourning for?

Her dead father

Her dead mother

Her dead father and brother

Her dead brother

12. "O that I served that lady!"

What does Viola mean when she says this?

13. A. Why does Viola decide she needs to disguise herself as a boy?

B. Do you think that it is a good idea for Viola to disguise herself as a boy?

YES

NO

Explain your answer

TWELFTH NIGHT
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ACT 1
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ANSWERS

1. Which word describes what the storm was like? Tick ONE answer

Raging	<input type="checkbox"/>	Powerful	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stormy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Windy	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. What simile is used to describe the waves? Use a direct quote from the text

“the waves like mountains”

3. What was tearing at the boat ‘like a ravenous beast’?

The wind	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The mountains	<input type="checkbox"/>
The sea	<input type="checkbox"/>	The sky	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Tick one synonym for ‘desperately’

hopelessly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	calmly	<input type="checkbox"/>
angrily	<input type="checkbox"/>	sadly	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Who was Viola searching for? Tick one box

Her brother	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Her cousin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Her mum	<input type="checkbox"/>	Her dad	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Why was Viola's face 'wet with tears'?

Because she thought her brother had drowned.

7. What question does Viola ask the crew? Use a direct quote from the text.

"What country, friends, is this?"

8. A. Who told Viola where they were?

The Captain

B. Where is Viola?

Ilyria

Viola shook herself, as if waking from a sleep. Though Death had come to claim her brother, Life did not care. There were problems to be solved: she was shipwrecked on a foreign shore, with no money, no friends and no family. "Who governs here?" Viola wanted to know.

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9. Viola realises she is shipwrecked in a strange place. What three things does she not have? Use direct quotes from the text

i. money

ii. friends

ii. family

10. Who 'governs' Ilyria? Tick one box

- Princess Orsino
- Prince Orsino
- Duke Orsino
- King Orsino

11. Who was Olivia in mourning for?

- Her dead father
- Her dead mother
- Her dead father and brother
- Her dead brother

12. "O that I served that lady!"

What does Viola mean when she says this?

That she could work for Olivia

13. A. Why does Viola decide she needs to disguise herself as a boy?

So that she can work for Duke Orsino as he will only have servants who are boys/men

B. Do you think that it is a good idea for Viola to disguise herself as a boy?

ANY SENSIBLE ANSWER HERE THAT IS JUSTIFIED. BELOW IS AN EXAMPLE ANSWER BUT USE YOUR SENSIBILITY!

YES NO

Explain your answer

She doesn't know anyone on the island and she doesn't have any money. The only person she knows of that she could work for will only employ men/boys so that is the only way to get work.