

**TWELFTH NIGHT**  
**READING COMPREHENSION**  
**ACT 5**  
**YEAR 5 AND 6**

**ACT 5**

Have you ever had one of those days where everything goes wrong? Your favourite breakfast cereal has run out, there are no clean socks, it's raining, it's Monday and by the time you get to the front of the lunch queue all the ice cream has already gone? Yes? Well, count yourself lucky and stop moaning, you're fine. Things could be a lot worse. You could be Viola...

It still didn't make sense to Orsino. He was the *Duke*, the actual, blooming Duke of Illyria! Plus, he was a jolly good bloke; and funny – I mean, his servants laughed at *all* his jokes. And he was the best-looking man he'd ever seen. He should know – he looked in the mirror often enough. And rich! Why didn't Olivia want to marry him? It must be a misunderstanding. He just needed to explain all those things to her one more time and she'd change her mind. And that was where he and Cesario were going, to see Olivia, when two of his guards appeared, dragging a man in chains.

Viola saw him first. It was the man who had called her Sebastian! She was desperate for news of her brother, and called out to Orsino, reminding him of her duel with Sir Andrew,

“Here comes the man, sir, that did rescue me.”

Orsino came to a halt, his face dark with anger.

“That face of his I do remember well; yet when I saw it last, it was besmear'd as black as Vulcan in the smoke of war.”

His guards explained.

“Orsino, this is that Antonio  
That took the Phoenix and her fraught from Candy;  
And this is he that did the Tiger board,  
When your young nephew Titus lost his leg.”

When Viola tried to defend Antonio, but he turned on her.

“Orsino, noble sir, that most ingrateful boy there by your side, from the rude sea did I redeem!”

Viola flushed scarlet at this accusation, But Orsino wasn't listening; Olivia had arrived. He took a deep breath and ran through his mental checklist: Duke, good bloke, funny, rich, amazingly good looking, it's a no-brainer...

“Gracious Olivia... “and that was as far as he got.

“If it be aught to the old tune, my lord, it is fat and fulsome to mine ear as howling after music.”

It was like a slap in the face. Orsino finally realised that Olivia would never be his.  
“Still so cruel? Come Cesario.”

They turned to leave, but Olivia called out:

“Cesario, husband, stay!”

There was a shocked silence. Orsino and Viola froze like statues. Then Orsino turned, staring at Viola with mounting fury. His voice was low, harsh – full of accusation.

“Husband!”

Viola, confused, stammered her reply.

“No, my lord, not I.”

Now it was Olivia’s turn to freeze.

“Alas! It is the baseness of thy fear that makes thee strangle thy propriety.”

Viola tried to make sense of all these declarations of treachery: Antonio, Orsino and Olivia all shouted accusations at her.

It can’t get much worse than this, she thought. Which you should *never* think, because it always *can* get worse...

Sir Andrew staggered towards the crowd clutching his bloodied head. Behind him limped Sir Toby, also bleeding. Sir Andrew pointed his bony finger at Viola and shouted:

“He has broke my head across and has given Sir Toby a bloody coxcomb too: for the love of God, your help!”

What was Viola to do? She stood accused of ingratitude, treachery, faithlessness and assault. She was guilty of none of these – far from it, a more faithful, loyal and gentle soul never breathed – but to deny these accusations would make her seem a liar too.

She was doomed. Only a miracle could save her.

“I am sorry, madam, I have hurt your kinsman.”

All present gasped. There, at Cesario’s side, stood a second Cesario, as if a mirror stood between them.

And, in a matter of minutes, what had been a very bad day for Viola became one of the best days ever. The many confusions were swiftly explained and now, by her side stood: Olivia's

new husband, Antonio's good friend and, best of all, the precious brother that she thought was gone forever – Sebastian.

And, on top of all this, whilst Sir Andrew and Sir Toby were led away to have their wounds tended, Orsino was undergoing a transformation. The huge love that he had held in his heart all these years was still there, but now bestowed on a different subject: Viola. How could he have been so blind?

“Boy, thou hast said to me a thousand times thou never shouldst love woman like to me.”

Viola, of course, had loved him from the start...

“And all those sayings will I overswear; and those swearings keep as true in soul as doth that orb'd continent the fire that severs day from night”

“Give me thy hand; and let me see thee in thy woman's weeds. “

And so they all lived happily ever after.

Well, not quite.

Though Olivia freed Malvolio, and though she exposed the forged letter and told her servant that he would be ‘both the plaintiff and the judge’ when the culprits were found, Malvolio was not appeased.

Seeing the smiling couples in front of him only made him feel more humiliated and more alone. No, there was a far chillier emotion than happiness in Malvolio's heart. He snarled at them all,

“I'll be revenged on the whole pack of you.”

But there was too much joy in the air for the mood to stay dark for long. As everyone left, to plan weddings and celebrations, Feste stayed behind, singing quietly to himself.

When that I was and a little tiny boy,  
With hey, ho, the wind and the rain,  
A foolish thing was but a toy,  
For the rain it raineth every day.”

**TWELFTH NIGHT  
READING COMPREHENSION  
ACT 5  
YEAR 5 AND 6**

1. What question does the author begin the passage with. Write a direct quote from the text

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2. Write down three things that the author gives as an example when everything is going wrong

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

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

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

3. Who, according to the author, is having a terrible day.

Tick one box

Viola  You  Cesario  Sebastian

4. What didn't make sense to Duke Orsino?  
Use evidence from the text to justify your answer

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5. What happened that stopped Duke Orsino and Cesario from going to Olivia's house?

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6. *'Orsino came to a halt, his face dark with anger'.*

Why was Orsino so cross?

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7. *'When Viola tried to defend Antonio, but he turned on her.*

*"Orsino, noble sir, that most ingrateful boy there by your side, from the rude sea did I redeem!"*

A. Who does Antonio think Viola is?

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B. What does Antonio mean by 'from the rude sea did I redeem'?

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8. Why did Duke Orsino stop listening to Antonio and Viola.  
Use evidence from the text to justify your answer.

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9. What did Olivia say that meant there was a shocked silence? Use a direct quote from the text

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10. *"Then Orsino turned, staring at Viola with mounting fury. His voice was low, harsh – full of accusation".*

Why was Orsino so cross with Viola?

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11. With Antonio, Olivia and Duke Orsino shouting at her, Viola can't think it can get any worse but who then accuses her of hurting them?

Name two people

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

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

12. Write down three things that Viola is accused of

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

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

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

13. Was Viola guilty of any of these things

YES

NO

14. *"I am sorry, madam, I have hurt your kinsman."*

Who says this to who?

\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

15. Why does everyone gasp?

Tick one box

Olivia agreed to marry Duke Orsino

There were two Cesario's standing side by side

Sir Andrew hit Duke Orsino

Antonio escaped

16. What is the main thing that turns Viola's day from being 'a very bad day' to 'one of the best days ever'?

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**17. Who does Duke Orsino suddenly realise he is in love with?**

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**18. They all lived happily ever after**

**TRUE**  **FALSE**

**With reference to the text, explain your answer.**

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**TWELFTH NIGHT  
ANSWERS  
READING COMPREHENSION  
ACT 5  
YEAR 5 AND 6**

1. **What question does the author begin the passage with. Write a direct quote from the text**

Have you ever had one of those days where everything goes wrong?

2. **Write down three things that the author gives as an example when everything is going wrong**

Could be any three of the following:

- Your favourite breakfast cereal has run out
- No clean socks
- It's raining
- By the time you get to the front of the lunch queue all the ice cream has already gone

3. **Who, according to the author, is having a terrible day.**

Tick one box

Viola

You

Cesario

Sebastian

4. **What didn't make sense to Duke Orsino?  
Use evidence from the text to justify your answer**

Duke Orsino couldn't understand why Olivia didn't want to marry him. He was a funny man 'his servants laughed at all his jokes', he knew from looking in the mirror he was 'the best looking man' and he was 'rich' so why wouldn't Olivia want to marry him!!

5. **What happened that stopped Duke Orsino and Cesario from going to Olivia's house?**

Two guards appeared, dragging a man in chains.

6. ***'Orsino came to a halt, his face dark with anger'.***

**Why was Orsino so cross?**

Because he recognised the face of the man in chains, he says "That face of his I do remember well; yet when I saw it last, it was besmear'd as black as Vulcan in the smoke of war".



7. ***'When Viola tried to defend Antonio, but he turned on her.***

***"Orsino, noble sir, that most ingrateful boy there by your side, from the rude sea did I redeem!"***

A. Who does Antonio think Viola is?

Sebastian

B. What does Antonio mean by 'from the rude sea did I redeem'?

From the rough, stormy sea, I rescued that boy

8. **Why did Duke Orsino stop listening to Antonio and Viola.  
Use evidence from the text to justify your answer.**

Olivia arrived:

"But Orsino wasn't listening; Olivia had arrived. He took a deep breath and ran through his mental checklist: Duke, good bloke, funny, rich, amazingly good looking, it's a no-brainer..."

9. **What did Olivia say that meant there was a shocked silence? Use a direct quote from the text**

"Cesario, husband, stay!"

10. ***"Then Orsino turned, staring at Viola with mounting fury. His voice was low, harsh – full of accusation".***

**Why was Orsino so cross with Viola?**

Because all this time he thinks he has been trying to help him get Olivia to fall in love and marry him and now it seems that 'Viola/Cesario' has actually betrayed him and married Olivia.

11. **With Antonio, Olivia and Duke Orsino shouting at her, Viola can't think it can get any worse but who then accuses her of hurting them?  
Name two people**

i. **Sir Andrew**

ii. **Sir Toby**

12. **Write down three things that Viola is accused of**

Any three of the following:

- ingratitude, treachery, faithlessness, assault.

13. **Was Viola guilty of any of these things**

YES

NO

14. ***“I am sorry, madam, I have hurt your kinsman.”***

Who says this to who?

Sebastian to Viola

15. **Why does everyone gasp?**

Tick one box

Olivia agreed to marry Duke Orsino

There were two Cesario’s standing side by side

Sir Andrew hit Duke Orsino

Antonio escaped

16. **What is the main thing that turns Viola’s day from being ‘a very bad day’ to ‘one of the best days ever’?**

Sebastian being alive and there!

17. **Who does Duke Orsino suddenly realise he is in love with?**

Viola

18. **They all lived happily ever after**

TRUE

FALSE

**With reference to the text, explain your answer.**

Answers will vary in content but it should refer to the fact that Malvolio was jealous/wasn’t happy and was going to seek revenge:

e.g. Although it all worked out for Sebastian, Viola, Olivia and Duke Orsino, their happiness and love made Malvolio feel even more humiliated.

***“Seeing the smiling couples in front of him only made him feel more humiliated and more alone. No, there was a far chillier emotion than happiness in Malvolio’s heart”***

And/or the following quote could be used to justify why they didn’t all live happily ever after

***“I’ll be revenged on the whole pack of you.”***