

## Twelfth Night Characters

**Orsino**, the Duke and Count of Illyria, is a young man deeply and fashionably in love with Olivia. Her rejection of him leaves him in a deep and just as fashionable melancholy.

**Curio** is one of Orsino's attendants. He seeks to distract Orsino by taking him to hunt, but Orsino refuses.

**Valentine** - one of Orsino's oldest attendants, who was sent to Olivia as a messenger of love, but was not allowed to speak to her.

**Viola** is a lady of Messaline. We first meet her as she arrives on the shores of Illyria having just survived a shipwreck, in which her twin brother Sebastian has apparently drowned. When dressed as her alter ego "**Cesario**" she is identical to Sebastian.

**Maria** is Olivia's waiting-gentlewoman. An ally, and the eventual wife of Sir Toby, she begins by trying to keep him out of trouble, and becomes the brains behind the plot against Malvolio.

**Sir Toby Belch** is Olivia's uncle and something of a minor-league Falstaff. A penniless drunkard who sets stock by his nobility of birth, with a taste for pickled herrings that likely leave him flatulent, he makes himself quite at home at his niece's, and is fond of Maria.

**Sir Andrew Aguecheek** is being conned by Sir Toby (under the influence of much drinking and carousing) into believing that he is a likely suitor to Sir Toby's niece, the countess Olivia.

**Feste** was Olivia's father's jester, and is now hers, though he often appears at The Duke's. A cohort of Sir Toby in the plot against Malvolio, with whom he has a running feud.

**Olivia** is an orphaned countess who has sworn to remain in mourning for seven years after the recent death of her father and her brother. She refuses all overtures from the Count Orsino, but immediately is smitten by young Cesario (Viola), who woos her in his stead.

**Malvolio**, whose name might be translated as 'ill-will,' is Olivia's steward. Something of a puritan, he abhors disorder and drunkenness, and has an antipathy toward Sir Toby & Feste.

**Sebastian** is Viola's twin brother. After the shipwreck, he was rescued by Antonio, and spent three months in his company.

**Antonio** is a sea captain. Though considered a pirate by Orsino, he considers himself an honorable opponent.

**Fabian** is a member of Olivia's household who has lost that lady's favor due to Malvolio's telling her about a bear-baiting Fabian was involved with.

A **Sea Captain** of the ship that Viola and Sebastian were traveling on (appears only in Act I. Scene ii).

**The Priest** is fetched by Olivia to marry her to her young man in secret.

**The First Officer** recognizes Antonio from the sea-fight, and arrests him.

**The Second Officer** does not actually know Antonio, but arrests him.

**Olivia's Servant** is not part of the cabal of upper servants who mock Malvolio.

**Musicians** who play for Orsino at his request.