

Bitesize KS3 English Literature – Shakespeare Twelfth Night – Themes – Appearance and reality transcript

Shakespeare knew that appearing to be something you're really not, could lead to new adventures; exciting - yes, but sometimes confusing or dangerous.

Give up. You're too old to get in.

The central character in Twelfth Night is a girl, Viola, who can pass for a boy, Cesario.

It's a brilliant disguise.

Just remember which door to go through....

Oh, look, it's Cesario's new boss, Orsino.

Viola falls in love with him, but she can't declare her love because she's disguised as a boy.

And if it wasn't complicated enough, Olivia falls in love with Cesario.

Oh, Good grief. Here comes Viola's twin Sebastian. His appearance is even more confusing.

Olivia proposes to him, thinking it's Cesario.

Shakespeare shows us how hard it can be to tell appearance from reality, but how also how much this confusion can teach us about ourselves.

After all, if it weren't for Viola's appearance as Cesario, these couples would never have met!

But it's only when the reality of who they are is known, can true love blossom!

Hang on. They keep coming out of the gents.

What's going on in there?
They're sneaking in!

Oh dear. It appears that Shakespeare's missed a trick. I've never seen this before.