

Connecting Love Speeches in *Twelfth Night* Group Presentation

Assignment Overview

With your groups, break up the lines of each speech into sets of 1-4 lines. These sets should convey a single idea or should be a line that just seems to want to stand on its own. After your group has broken all of the speeches up into pieces, find a creative way to merge all three speeches into a performance.

Steps to take

1. Read Orsino's speech together. Separate lines that convey a single idea. It is best to do this in pencil in case you change your mind later. Here is an example: (Remember, this is JUST an example! There are many ways this can be done.)

Orsino

If music be the food of love, play on.
Give me excess of it, that, surfeiting,
The appetite may sicken and so die.

That strain again! It had a dying fall.

O, it came o'er my ear like the sweet sound
That breathes upon a bank of violets,
Stealing and giving odor.

Enough; no more.
'Tis not so sweet now as it was before.

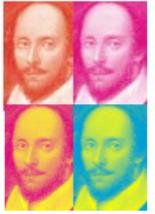
O spirit of love, how quick and fresh art thou,
That, notwithstanding thy capacity

Receiveth as the sea, naught enters there,

Of what validity and pitch soe'er,
But falls into abatement and low price
Even in a minute.

So full of shapes is fancy
That it alone is high fantastical.

2. Now separate Viola's speech and Olivia's speech into sets of lines.



3. Next, try and find sets of lines BETWEEN THE THREE speeches that sound like they go together because they are about the same idea, they have the same tone, or they play off each other in some way. Interweave these speeches. You should put a big number “1” next to the set of lines that you think should be first. Then put a number “2” next to the set of lines that should be second. Keep going until all of the sets of lines have been numbered. Make sure everyone in the group writes it down!
4. Decide on a creative way to present your intertwined speech. You may wish to have one reader for Orsino’s lines, one for Olivia’s, and one for Viola’s while the two other members of your group act out a silent scene. Or, you may wish to divide the lines up between all of the members of your group and create a skit where characters of your own creation speak the lines to each other. Be as creative as you wish. The only requirements are:
 - a) You must include *all* lines from each speech.
 - b) You must interweave the lines in some way (in other words, you can’t just read each speech one at a time).
 - c) Everyone in the group must perform in some way.
5. Rehearse together at least once in order to prepare to present for the class. (Be prepared to answer questions on why you chose to break the lines up the way you did and why you chose to present them in a certain way.)
6. Complete the following for homework: Describe each of the following characters in 2-3 sentences based on the speeches you read: Orsino, Viola, Olivia. How do you think these characters are connected to each other in the play? Which of the presentations did you find most effective? Why? What questions remain in your mind after today’s activity?