



SAMPLE

Twelfth Night Shakespeare Course

TWELVE 30-MINUTE GROUP LESSONS
FOR GRADES 4-12



Twelfth Night Shakespeare Course
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course description

Students will learn about *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare in three steps. First, they will listen to a retelling of the play. Second, they will either listen to a professional audio dramatization of the play or read aloud the lines from each scene together. Third, they will watch a film version or live performance of the play together. Home extensions include additional opportunities to learn about the play and about acting in Shakespeare’s time.

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complete materials list

FOR CLASS TIME

- *Shakespeare in Three Steps: Twelfth Night* (Order one for the teacher.)
- Copies of the script from *Shakespeare in Three Steps: Twelfth Night*, pages 39-130 (one per student) (An e-book version is included with each purchase of a physical copy so that copies can be printed easily.)
 - *note* Act I, Scene 3, contains several bawdy lines that you will want to determine how to handle before copying the script for your students. The easiest way might be to omit that scene entirely, which will not affect the plot at all.
- (optional) *The Arkangel Shakespeare: Twelfth Night* audio dramatization recording
- (optional) CD player or digital audio player
- Picture of the original Globe Theatre
- Map of the Globe Theatre's original location in modern-day London, England (available on Google Maps)
- Chalkboard with chalk or whiteboard with dry erase markers
- Pencils or pens
- Lined paper
- Four skeins or balls of yarn in four different colors (suggested colors: red, yellow, blue, and black)
- Copies of pages 25–26 (one set per student)
- Copy of pages 27–33
- Copy of pages 34–37, cut apart

FOR HOME EXTENSIONS

- *Shakespeare in Three Steps: Twelfth Night* OR a copy of the script from *Shakespeare in Three Steps: Twelfth Night*, pages 39–130.
- Internet-connected device
- Art supplies of your choice (paper, colored pencils, watercolors, paints, markers, etc.)
- Copies of pages 38–39

Lesson 1: Read the Story

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Chalkboard or whiteboard
- *Shakespeare in Three Steps: Twelfth Night*

INTRODUCTION / 5 minutes

Write “Twelfth Night” on the board. Tell the students they will be hearing the Shakespeare play titled *Twelfth Night*, also known as *What You Will*.

Explain that the phrase “Twelfth Night” refers to a festival that marks the coming of Epiphany, the last day of the Twelve Days of Christmas. This play was originally written to serve as entertainment at a Twelfth Night gathering.

Ask: Have you ever known twins who looked so much alike it was difficult to tell them apart? Explain that in this play, Shakespeare used a set of identical twins to create a comedy around two people who are mistaken for one another.

Explain that today you are going to read to them a retelling of *Twelfth Night*. Encourage the students to listen closely, as this will help them understand the full play when it starts in the next lesson.

PRESENTATION / 25 minutes

Write the following names on the board:

- Duke Orsino
- Countess Olivia
- Viola/Cesario
- Sebastian
- Malvolio
- Sir Andrew Aguecheek
- Sir Toby Belch

Read the first half of *Twelfth Night* from *Beautiful Stories from Shakespeare for Children* by E. Nesbit, starting on page 7 in *Shakespeare in Three Steps: Twelfth Night*. Stop after “Cesario had no heart to refuse the request” at the top of page 9. Ask the students to tell back to you what they have heard in the story so far, starting with Duke Orsino’s love for Olivia.

Next, read the second half of the story and ask the students to tell you what they heard, starting with Sir Andrew’s jealousy.

DATE

tip Before the first lesson, become familiar with the play enough to guide your students through the plot. Practice the pronunciation of names and places in the play before class.



HOME EXTENSION: Invite your student to do online research about Twelfth Night traditions, particularly those traditions that would have been popular around 1600 AD when the play is believed to have been written. Discuss whether any of the traditions seem similar to Christmas or Epiphany traditions that are still celebrated today.

tip A complete list of Home Extensions for this course can be found on pages 38 and 39 in this guide. You may want to copy and distribute those pages to the parents of your students.
