

Twelfth Night

William Shakespeare

Why does Viola treat disguise as a way to act rather than merely hide?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Viola turns disguise into a plan
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Act I, Scene II
START	Oh, that I served that lady! And might not be deliver'd to the world, Till I had made mine own occasion mellow, What my estate is!
END	I thank thee:—Lead me on.
PASSAGE ID	sec-tn-01

THE MOVE

Distinguish disguise as action from disguise as concealment

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Viola's disguise is not simply camouflage. Becoming Cesario gives her access to Orsino's household and a new social role from which she can act, serve, speak, and move through a world closed to Viola as herself.

MARK

Underline what Viola wants to avoid or conceal. Circle every action the Cesario identity will allow her to take. Write HIDES beside one function of disguise and ENABLES beside the other.

NOTICE

- What danger does the disguise help Viola avoid?

- What opportunities does it create that hiding alone would not?
- Why is disguise more powerful when it changes what a character can do, not just who can recognize her?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does Viola treat disguise as a way to act rather than merely hide? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does Viola treat disguise as a way to act rather than merely hide? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Viola's disguise gives her access to action: it lets her enter Orsino's household, serve, speak, travel, and make choices that simple hiding would not permit. Concealment is only one function.
EVIDENCE	Use what Viola needs to hide from and what becoming Cesario allows her to do.
WATCH FOR	Do not define disguise only as preventing recognition. The question asks how it becomes a tool for agency.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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Why does Viola treat disguise as a way to act rather than merely hide?

START ANCHOR	Oh, that I served that lady! And might not be deliver'd to the world, Till I had made mine own occasion mellow, What my estate is!
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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Underline what Viola wants to avoid or conceal. Circle every action the Cesario identity will allow her to take. Write HIDES beside one function of disguise and ENABLES beside the other.
2. NOTICE - What danger does the disguise help Viola avoid? What opportunities does it create that hiding alone would not? Why is disguise more powerful when it changes what a character can do, not just who can recognize her?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why does Viola treat disguise as a way to act rather than merely hide?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.