

Viola

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Viola Character Essay

In the play *Twelfth Night* the main character Viola has many distinctive characteristics. One of the main and most important characteristics is that she is caring. First Viola cares for Orsino's feelings about Olivia even though she loves him. Next she is also caring to Olivia's feelings for Viola when Viola does not feel the same. Lastly she offers to give Antonio her own money. In conclusion the character Viola's main characteristic is that she is caring because of the way she treats people and handles situation throughout the play.

To start off, one of the ways Viola shows this is she cares enough for Orsino that she woos Olivia even though Viola wants to marry Orsino. It takes a ton of empathy for a person to make someone else happier at his or her own expense. When asked to woo Olivia, Viola says "I'll do my best to woo your lady: Yet, a barful strife! Whoe'r I woo myself would be his wife" (Shakespeare 37). This says that Viola loves Orsino but will still woo Olivia for Orsino. In conclusion the fact that she is deliberately making herself less happy for Orsino's sake shows she cares about him.

Another way that Viola shows she is caring is when she tries to still be accommodating to Olivia's feelings even though she does not feel the same way about her. First she shows this is ways such as when Olivia sends Malvolio to give Cesario the ring she realizes she likes her by she does not want to hurt her or Orsino and still comes

back to see her to show that she cares enough to not hurt her feelings (Shakespeare 75). Also she tries her best to let her down without getting angry because Olivia can not take no for an answer. Lastly she tries to tell her how much the duke Orsino is in love with her. This shows that she is caring because even though she rejects her Viola lets her know there is someone else out there that could care for her better than she could. To sum up, Viola shows she cares about Olivia's feelings because of these reasons.

A final reason to show her main characteristic is she offers to give her own money to Antonio even though she does not know him. First when Antonio comes to help and the guard comes she takes out money to help him out after he is arrested. Next when she sees him again she tells Orsino he is the one that saved her from fighting with Sir Andrew in the fight. Finally a quote from when she was offering money to Antonio:

What money, sir? For the fair kindness you have show'd me here, and part, being prompted by your present trouble, out of my lean and low ability I'll lend you something. My having is not much; I'll make division of my present with you. Hold there's half my coffer. (Shakespeare 175)

These reasons show Viola is caring to Antonio.

The character Viola has many important personality traits but the main characteristic is she is caring. She is still helpful with Orsino's love for Olivia even though she loves him herself. Also she tries to let Olivia down easy when she does not feel the same way about her. Lastly she gives a stranger to her, Antonio, money when she does not know him. For the reasons listed above the character Viola's main characteristic

is she is caring because of the way she treats people and handles situations throughout the play.

Works Cited

Shakespeare, William. *Twelfth Night*. Toronto: Hartcourt, 1990