

Sebastian

Mr. Dowhaniuk

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Sebastian the Brave

In the play *The Twelfth Night* the character Sebastian is portrayed as a very brave man by the way he deals with his circumstances. The first example of this is after he is shipwrecked Sebastian is willing to venture off alone in a completely new place. Another point that proves Sebastian's courage is that he is not afraid to participate in a physical confrontation, like the ones with Sir Andrew and Sir Toby. The final example of this is that he willingly starts a relationship with someone after just meeting her. This results in the conclusion that bravery is Sebastian's key characteristic.

Sebastian repeatedly demonstrates his true bravery. He proves this firstly by exploring a land with which he is not at all familiar. After a devastating shipwreck, Sebastian lands on the shore of Illyria. In many instances, people who survive a shipwreck would enter 'survival mode': build a fire and wait for help. Sebastian, however, does not do this. Instead, he ventures out on his own, exploring a new land with new people and customs which ends up working to his favour (Shakespeare 45). By doing this Sebastian demonstrates his natural bravery.

A second situation in which Sebastian illustrates his courage is when he is suddenly attacked by Sir Andrew. Sir Andrew is enraged because he believes Olivia is giving Cesario the attention he, himself, rightfully deserves. He sees Sebastian and,

mistaking him for Cesario, starts striking him. This confuses Sebastian because he has become the victim of abuse he knows he has not warranted. Without knowing Sir Andrew and what power he has both physically and socially, Sebastian decides to return the brutality and in so doing, subjects himself to a foretold danger, thus reinforcing his bravery (Shakespeare 56).

In addition Sebastian shows his courage through his willingness to start relations with a woman he has never met and knows nothing about, Olivia. When she first approaches a man who she thinks is Cesario but is truly Sebastian she begs him to go back to her house with her. Sebastian readily agrees without even contemplating what her intentions are, thus proving he does not fear what she has planned (Shakespeare 78). He then agrees to become engaged to her and announce his loyalties in front of the priest without any fear of the possible consequences or repercussions (Shakespeare 109). His keen attitude towards indulging himself in a serious relationship with Olivia without knowing her true personality or understanding her intent proves that Sebastian is a brave man.

In conclusion the character Sebastian is in fact a brave man. He demonstrates his courage on several different times. First of all although he is shipwrecked he was willing to explore an unknown place. Also he retaliates against Sir Andrew by striking him back. Lastly Sebastian starts a serious relationship after only just meeting Olivia. The way the character Sebastian from *The Twelfth Night* reacts to these three incidences proves that he is brave.

Works Cited

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