

## Unit Organizer--Eighth-Grade English *Twelfth Night*

### **Subject Matter and Relationship to Core Knowledge Sequence:**

- ❖ Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*
- ❖ Elements of drama
- ❖ Elements of fiction: plot, setting, theme, point of view, conflict (internal/external), climax, character (static/dynamic; flat/round) (*Thinking Framework = Knowledge*)
- ❖ Literary terms (Irony, flashbacks, foreshadowing) (*Thinking Framework = Knowledge*)

### **Assessments:**

- ❖ Class discussion (factual, cause-effect, interpretation, themes, literary terms)
- ❖ Comprehension quiz on a piece of literary criticism by Harold Jenkins ("Creative Devices Make *Twelfth Night* a Great Comedy")
- ❖ Group presentation: picking a scene from the play, acting it out, and meaningfully analyzing its message and role in the play
- ❖ Final test including expository essay dealing with the themes of the play

### **Standards for Achievement and Performance:**

#### **AFTER THIS UNIT THE STUDENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO...**

- ❖ Explain the uniqueness of drama and how it compares/contrasts to other genres. This will include a knowledge and appreciation of facets of performance and staging: casting, sets, costumes, disguises, the role of the audience.
- ❖ Express the classically defined difference between tragedy and comedy.
- ❖ Understand how key literary ideas like conflict, suspense, and characterization are developed in drama.
- ❖ Be convinced that plays were meant to be seen, not just read.
- ❖ Be more comfortable acting in front of a group.
- ❖ Know key dramatic terms like, farce satire, soliloquies, asides, etc.
- ❖ Know Shakespeare's distinctive genius and legacy.
- ❖ Know the role and logistics of drama in Shakespeare's Elizabethan England.
- ❖ Trace plot and sub-plot structure in the course of a five-act play.
- ❖ Express the play's themes, write meaningfully about them, and understand their relevance and application to today.
- ❖ Appreciate Shakespeare's unique grasp of the English language, as demonstrated by his vocabulary, imagery, wordplays, etc.
- ❖ Understand the usefulness of literary criticism in the comprehension and enjoyment of great literature.
- ❖ Understand what makes Shakespeare timeless.
- ❖ Want to read more Shakespeare.

**Character Traits/Habits of Mind:**

This comedy by Shakespeare has an especial relevance to an audience starting adolescence since the moral themes are prevalent, powerful, and communicated often in hilarious fashion. One of the main themes is disguise. How does disguise relate to reality? How does disguise affect reality? What is disguise, generally speaking, and what disguises do we have in our own lives and culture? Again, this develops the habit of reading classical literature through the lens of present need and experience. This allows the classics to be a wise, balanced, and urgent voice in the midst of present flux and flow.

**Previous Unit(s):**

- ❖ Vocabulary
- ❖ Short Stories

**Next Unit(s):**

- ❖ Essays and Speeches
- ❖ Continue Vocabulary
- ❖ Continue Foreign Phrases/Spelling