CONTENTS

- 4 Introduction
- The Playwright
- A Shakespeare Timeline
- The Play
- The Main Characters
- English in Shakespeare's Time
- 17 I'll Serve This Duke
- 29 A Barful Strife
- Even So Quickly May One Catch The Plague?
- Poor Lady, She Were Better Love A Dream
- To The Unknown Beloved
- Antonio, I Arrest thee
- 95 Yet 'Tis Not Madness
- An Apple, Cleft in Two
- 118 Review
- Exam Practice B2
- The Paintings
- Shakespeare Wordbank



Twelfth Night or What You Will is one of Shakespeare's most famous comedies. As with most of his plays, Shakespeare borrowed ideas and transformed them into a unique work all of his own. Find out more about the origins of the story and its two titles.

Plot sources

One of the most important sources for *Twelfth Night* is an Italian play called *Gl'Ingannati* (*The Deceived Ones*), written collectively by the Accademia degli Intronati di Siena, and first performed in Siena in 1531 before being published in Venice in 1537. The story features a love triangle, similar to the one in *Twelfth Night*. Another common feature is twins whose identities are mistaken. Plays and stories based on the misunderstandings which arise from twins being mistaken for each other have always been popular: the classical Roman author Plautus and his play *The Menaechmi*, also known as *The Brothers Menaechmus* (c. 200 B.C.), is just one important example. The story of *Gl'Ingannati* was also included both in Matteo Bandello's *Novelle* (1554) and in François de Belleforest's *Histoires Tragiques* (1570). Barnabe Riche was inspired by both Bandello and Belleforest when he wrote *Apolonius and Silla* (1581), which many consider to be the direct source of Shakespeare's play.

Character sources

Another Italian play, *Il Viluppo (The Tangle)*, written in 1547 by Girolamo Parabosco most likely provided Shakespeare with the character of Orsino. A later play, *Inganni* (Deceptions), written in the 1590s by Curzio Gonzaga, gave the name Cesare to a woman who disguises herself as a man and it is likely that Shakespeare borrowed this for Viola's pseudonym, Cesario.

Shakespeare uses the ideas of mistaken identity and of a woman disguised as a manservant falling in love with her master in two other plays: *The Comedy of Errors* (1589) and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (1589-1593). Although Malvolio's name also seems borrowed, the story of his demise, *Twelfth Night*'s subplot, is its most original part and was invented by Shakespeare.

Titles

Shakespeare wrote his play between 1601 and 1602 and gave his work two names. The first, *Twelfth Night*, refers to the twelfth night after Christmas, or the Epiphany, a time for laughter, jokes, games and merriment. The second, *What You Will*, invites the spectators and readers of his play to give it any name they wish, should they not like the one chosen by the playwright.

1 Read the text. Complete the table with information in chronological order.

	DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR	NOTES
1	c.200 B.C.			A play about twins and mistaken identity
2	1531		Accademia degli Intronati di Siena	
3	1547			It gave Shakespeare the character Orsino
4		Apolonius and Silla		Considered an important source for Twelfth Night, inspired by Bandello and Belleforest
5			Curzio Gonzago	It contains a character called Cesare who is a woman disguised as a man.
6			William Shakespeare	

VOCABULARY

3 Complete the word formation table below.

	NOUN	VERB	ADJECTIVE
a		disguise	
b	identity		
C		inspire	
d		invite	
е	laughter		
f			mistaken
g	misunderstanding		
h	origin		

4	Use some of	the	words	from	Exercise	3 t	o comp	olete	the	sentences	belo	W
---	-------------	-----	-------	------	-----------------	-----	--------	-------	-----	-----------	------	---

a	Sue and Joss are twins – no one can tell them apart except for their mum
b	Shakespeare often took from Italian writers for the stories of his plays.
C	Elliot went to the Halloween party as a vampire.
d	When I go out at weekends, I just want to with my mates and relax.
e	Have you got any marks on your face like a scar or a mole?
f	I enjoyed the talk. Itslay in the fact that the speaker quoted texts I had
	never heard of before.

The Main Characters

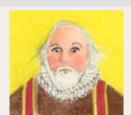
- 1 Look at the characters and read the texts. Highlight the words referring to relationships or role and those referring to personality in two different colours.
- 2 Focus on the words referring to personality. Decide if the characters are
 - complex human beings.
 - simple, mono-dimensional caricatures.

The Inhabitants of Illyria



Olivia

is a noblewoman whose father and brother have recently died. She is courted by Duke Orsino but has vowed not to look at men while she is mourning. She is virtuous, wealthy, beautiful and intelligent. She is also strong-minded and clear about what she wants.



Sir Toby Belch

is Olivia's cousin. He is quite clever but he also drinks a lot. He enjoys the company of drinking partners, servants and clowns.



Sir Andrew Aguecheek

is a friend of Sir Toby's.
He is not very clever and is easily made fun of.
He thinks he is witty and astute, but in reality he is idiotic and cowardly.
He wants to marry Olivia to solve his money problems.



Malvolio

is Olivia's steward.
He is faithful and devoted but also full of self-importance. He enjoys pointing out other people's faults but does not see his own. He hides a passion for his mistress Olivia, and is easily fooled by her.



Maria is Olivia's maidservant. She is very clever and intuitive and enjoys using her intelligence and wit to play tricks on other people.



Fabian is one of Olivia's servants. He is shrewd and enjoys a good joke.



Feste is a clown. He jokes, sings and is witty but at the same time, even though he is the fool, he is often very wise and gives good advice.



Duke Orsino is the governor of the island of Illyria and is rich and noble. He is an accomplished gentleman and a bachelor. He dreams of marrying Olivia and spends all his time talking and thinking about love.

VOCABULARY

3 What do the following mean? Explain to a partner.

- a to be fooled by someone
- **b** to be in mourning
- **c** to be shipwrecked
- **d** to be shrewd

- **e** to be witty
- **f** to court
- **g** to play tricks on people
- **h** to vow



Curio and Valentine are the duke's manservants.



The **captain** of the ship on which Viola and Sebastian were travelling is originally from Illyria. He is helpful and assists Viola in getting ashore and disguising herself.

The New Arrivals



Viola

is a young woman who is shipwrecked with her twin brother Sebastian on Illyria. Viola disguises herself as a man and becomes a manservant to Duke Orsino. She is clever, passionate and determined but also modest, sweet and vulnerable.



Cesario,

As Cesario, she is skilful, understanding and eloquent.



Sebastian

is Viola's twin brother.
He is brave but gentle,
kind and intelligent.
He is saved from the
shipwreck by Antonio
who also takes care of
him when they arrive on
Illyria. He thinks Viola
has drowned.



Antonio

is a sea captain who was on the same ship as Viola and Sebastian. He asks to be Sebastian's servant but is not welcome on Illyria as he was involved in a sea-fight with Duke Orsino's ships. He is loyal, faithful and generous.



I'LL SERVE THIS DUKE

Twelfth Night is a comedy and, as is typical of this genre, the first part of the play introduces the characters and the setting, as well as the first problems and complications.

- 1 Read the summary of the story so far. Then answer the questions below.
 - a Who has survived the storm and shipwreck?
 - **b** Where have they come ashore?

THE STORY SO FAR

On the island of Illyria, Duke Orsino is in love with Olivia, who is in mourning for her father and brother and refuses to see any men. In the meantime, twin brother and sister, Sebastian and Viola, are travelling by ship when it is wrecked in a storm. The siblings are separated but Viola manages to reach the shore of Illyria with the ship's captain.

2 Predict.

- **a** How do you think Viola is feeling?
- **b** What might she do when she reaches the shore?



Read the text. Use the notes on the right.

I'LL SERVE THIS DUKE

ACT I SCENE II

(Enter VIOLA, a Captain, and sailors)

VIOLA

What country, friends, is this?

CAPTAIN

This is Illyria, lady.

VIOLA

And what should I do in Illyria? My brother he is in Elysium.

5 Perchance he is not drown'd: what think you, sailors?

CAPTAIN

It is perchance that you yourself were saved.

Viola asks the captain where they have come ashore.

He replies that they are in Illyria.

Viola asks what she is supposed to do in Illyria when her brother is in heaven. Then she asks the sailors if they think he might still be alive.

The captain says that Viola is lucky to be alive.

VIOLA

O my poor brother! and so perchance may he be.

CAPTAIN

True, madam: and, to comfort you with chance,

Assure yourself, after our ship did split,
When you and those poor number saved with

you
Hung on our driving boat, I saw your brother,
Most provident in peril, bind himself,
Courage and hope both teaching him the
practise,

To a strong mast that lived upon the sea;
Where, like Arion on the dolphin's back,
I saw him hold acquaintance with the waves
So long as I could see.

VIOLA

For saying so, there's gold:
Mine own escape unfoldeth to my hope,

20 Whereto thy speech serves for authority, The like of him. Know'st thou this country?

CAPTAIN

Ay, madam, well; for I was bred and born Not three hours' travel from this very place.

VIOLA

Who governs here?

CAPTAIN

25 A noble duke, in nature as in name.

VIOLA

What is the name?

CAPTAIN

Orsino.

VIOLA

Orsino! I have heard my father name him: He was a bachelor then.

CAPTAIN

30 And so is now, or was so very late; For but a month ago I went from hence, And then 'twas fresh in murmur,--as, you know,

What great ones do the less will prattle of,--That he did seek the love of fair Olivia.

VIOLA

35 What's she?

Viola hopes he is alive, like her.

The captain says that he saw Olivia's brother manage to stay afloat until he was out of sight.

Viola gives the captain some gold for his words. She says that she thinks he might survive, since she herself has done so, and that the captain's story has confirmed this possibility. She then asks him if he knows Illyria.

The captain says that he does because he was born and grew up less than three hours from where they are.

Viola asks who the governor of the island is.

He tells her that the governor is an honest nobleman. Viola asks his name. He replies, Orsino.

Viola says that her father talked about Orsino and that he was not married at that time.

The captain says that he is still single, or was so a month ago when the captain was last in Illyria. At that time the gossip was that Orsino was trying to win the love of the beautiful Olivia.

Viola asks who Olivia is.

CAPTAIN

A virtuous maid, the daughter of a count That died some twelvemonth since, then leaving her In the protection of his son, her brother,

Who shortly also died: for whose dear love,
They say, she hath abjured the company
And sight of men.

VIOLA

O that I served that lady And might not be delivered to the world, Till I had made mine own occasion mellow,

45 What my estate is!

CAPTAIN

That were hard to compass; Because she will admit no kind of suit, No, not the duke's.

VIOLA

There is a fair behavior in thee, captain;
50 And though that nature with a beauteous wall

Doth oft close in pollution, yet of thee I will believe thou hast a mind that suits With this thy fair and outward character. I prithee, and I'll pay thee bounteously,

For such disguise as haply shall become
The form of my intent. I'll serve this duke:
Thou shall present me as an eunuch to him:
It may be worth thy pains; for I can sing

60 And speak to him in many sorts of music That will allow me very worth his service. What else may hap to time I will commit; Only shape thou thy silence to my wit.

CAPTAIN

Be you his eunuch, and your mute I'll be:
When my tongue blabs, then let mine eyes not see.

VIOLA

I thank thee: lead me on.

(Exeunt)

The captain tells her that Olivia is an unmarried noblewoman of good morals whose father, a count, died a year ago, leaving her in her brother's protection, but he died soon after. Olivia has promised not to see, or be in the company of men while she is mourning her brother.

Viola wishes she could work for Olivia so she could hide from people until she knows what her own situation is.

The captain says it will be unlikely as Olivia will see nobody, not even the duke's messengers.

Viola says she thinks that the captain is a good person and, unlike many people who seem nice on the outside but are not on the inside, she thinks he is as good as he seems. She promises to pay him well if he helps her to conceal her identity so she can carry out the plan she has in mind. She asks him to introduce her to the duke as a eunuch (castrated man) so she can become one of his servants. She says she will be good at the job because she can sing and play different types of music. This way, she will have time to see what life holds for her next. She asks the captain to keep her plan secret.

The captain swears to keep her identity secret, or be struck blind.

Viola thanks him and says she will follow him.

Understand and Analyse

UNDERSTAND

- 1 What do you learn about Viola's brother, Sebastian?
- 2 What are you told about Orsino and Olivia from this scene? Write 'Olivia' and/or 'Orsino' for each of the following statements.

	She/He a is of noble birth b lives in Illyria c is unmarried d is the daughter/son of a cour		f has los g is in lo	dsome/beautifulst close relativesve veg to court the one s/he lovesg	
3				hy? What does she decide to	
4	What can you deduce about and explain your choices. action easily discouraged curious clever	shy sweet daring	this scer	ne? Choose the best adjective ingenious boring cautious	es
5	ANALYSE Twelfth Night is written in a Which of the two forms is use b Divide the words in these line there in each line? Example: And I though I that I is Doth oft close in pollution. I will believe thou hast a market	ed here? es into syllable na I ture I , yet of thee	es as in the	example. How many syllables are	е
	With this thy fair and out	ward charac	ter.		

THINK

6 In Shakespeare's time, there were no female actors. Women's roles were played by young men or boys. What does this information add to your understanding of this scene?

PRODUCE

7 Continue the story summary on page 17 with the information you have gathered from this scene.

Vocabulary Building

"for I was bred and born Not three hours' travel from this very place,

Town and country

while

but

whereas

instead

	a ☐ high-rise fl b ☐ lively bars c ☐ office block	and restaurants	d □ city park e □ public to f □ congest	ansport	
2	Explain th	e difference between	the following to a	partner.	
	d online shoppinge a parking spanf local facilitiesg city sprawl an	•			
3	(i) Use some	of the words to talk a	bout a town or city	you have lived in or	know.
4	online to look a	you know the meani at some photographs use them to talk abou	then use the words	to describe them to	_
	churchyard	gate	livestock	stone walls	
	crop fields	grazing land	oak tree	village	
	farmhouse	hedges	rolling hills	woodland	
5	Make com	parisons between life	e in a city and life in	a town.	
	(much) more	relaxing	in a hurry		
	(much) less	frenetic	time to talk		
		strenuous	(too much/plenty	of) time on your hands	

lots/nothing to do

fast/slow pace of life

very little/lots of nightlife

everyone/no one knows you

peace and quiet

fresh air/smog

6 Go to *Twelfth Night* online **and do the vocabulary activity.**

anonymous

stressful

exciting

peaceful

noisy

boring



Twelfth Night is considered to be one of Shakespeare's best comedies.

1 Read the text then complete the table on page 23.

A **comedy** is a play that is amusing in tone and that has a happy ending. Unlike tragedy, whose heroes and heroines are people of noble birth and are often linked to the state, comedy is more likely to feature events concerning ordinary people or private individuals. In comedy, the characters overcome a series of difficulties which are generally characterized by a humorous or satirical tone.

Comedy usually adopts the following structure: the **introduction** or **exposition** presents the characters and the setting, and prepares the basis for the numerous difficulties which will arise in the second part, the **complication**. In this second phase, the knot is being tied — this means that complication is added to complication until a solution seems impossible. The knot is fully tied and compacted in the **climax** of the play. The climax, however, also represents the turning point since it is followed by a series of events in which the knot begins to loosen and some of the complications are resolved. This fourth phase is, in fact, called the **resolution**. Finally all the problems are solved and the play reaches its happy conclusion in the **dénouement**, when the metaphorical knot is fully untied. Dénouement comes from the French root 'nouer' which means to tie.

Shakespeare's comedies, which include *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *As You Like It*, are all **romantic comedies**, and have a number of elements in common. These include marriage, magical or fantastic settings, disguise and deception, mixing of genders, and misunderstandings. Romantic comedies often end in multiple marriages and the main characters are single, eligible and ready to fall in love. It is always useful to remember that during Shakespeare's time, all actors were male and so a comedy in which a female character disguises herself as a male is, in reality, a male dressed as a female dressing as a male, which brought about many humorous moments. Disguise allowed for misunderstandings to take place and for deceptions to occur, whether desired or accidental.

COMEDY	
Definition	
Characters	
Main plot	
Ending	
Tone	
Structure	
Features of Shakespeare's comedies	

- 3 Consider the genre of comedy in relation to the play Twelfth Night.
 - **a** Which of the key features have you already seen on pages 17-19?
 - **b** As you continue to read, note which part of the structure each extract belongs to and which other elements of comedy emerge.
- 4 Think of a film that you have seen which could be considered a romantic comedy (romcom), such as 'To All the Boys I've Loved Before', or When Harry Met Sally. Which of the traditional features of comedy have been maintained? Discuss with a partner.



From Reading to Performing



1 Before you listen, predict how the speech will be read. Use these words and add your own.

happily/sadly solemnly/angrily/with a sense of frustration slowly/fluently

2 Listen and see if you were right. Discuss the tone used. Try for yourself. Read the script aloud with the recording and then without. Imitate reading speed, intonation and tone.

SETTING

In this scene the characters have just arrived on the island of Illyria. Although there was an area of the Balkans called Illyria, most critics agree that for Shakespeare the name refers to an invented place, somewhere remote and exotic, where strange things can happen. It is a place of romance, trickery, disguise and even of pirates.

ON STAGE!

The **set** is the first thing that the audience sees when the stage is revealed. It can give important information such as the place, the time and the historical period. Set designers must think about how the actors will use the stage (movements on stage and how they will enter and exit), plus what the audience can see, remembering that the set must always support the actors and never detract attention from them.

Set designers work closely with the production designer (in smaller productions one person may look after everything) and the director to decide the style of the production (modern or period, abstract or naturalistic). They will then sketch out their ideas and once these have been approved they will often make a box model of the set.

- Read the scene on pages 17-19 once more. In groups, discuss what type of setting you would create. Would it be realistic or fantastical? Would you show the sea? Think about the following, then share your ideas in class.
 - scenerypropslightingsound
- 4 Look at these photos of two different productions of *Twelfth Night*. Describe them. How are they different? What mood do you think the set designer wanted to create in each one?





Test Yourself

ANYONE

	I LL SEKVE	IHIS DOKE								
1	Find words in the extract that mean the following.									
	a external	b brought up	c unmarried man	d beautiful	e generously					
2	Read this p	assage from t	he extract then a	nswer the foll	owing questions.					
	Most pro Courage To a stro Where, I saw hir	and hope bot ong mast that like Arion on	ril, bind himself, th teaching him t lived upon the so the dolphin's bac intance with the	ea; ck,						
	a The captain 1 a dol 2 his co 3 the w	phin ourage	prother might have s	urvived the ship	wreck thanks to:					
	Shakespea			, ,	Why do you think nat other poetic feature					
3			similar as possibl FERS without cha	_	to the original one usin	9				
	a It is possib	le that Viola's b	rother has survived t	he shipwreck.						
	b Viola says REMEMBE		er father mention O	rsino.						
	LIKELY		via accepting male o	ompany.						
	FOR	,	ria a month ago.							
	SINCE		ria a month ago.							
	KINDER	·	captain to be so kind							
	g Viola asks	the captain to te	ell no one about her	plan.						

/ 40 marks

► TOTAL

4	Rewrite	the	following	sentences	using	the	correct	past	tenses

- **a** She promises to pay him well if he helps her to conceal her identity so she can carry out the plan she has in mind.
- **b** She says she will be good at the job because she can sing and play different types of music.
- **c** She says that she thinks he might survive, since she herself has done so.

	d Olivia is an unmarried noblewoman of sound morals whose leaving her in her brother's protection, but he too died soon	father, a count	, died a year ago,
			/ 25 marks
	VOCABULARY BUILDING		
5	Which words in the box on page 21 do you associate value a cattle - herd - pasture b undergrowth - timber - wildlife c stable - fenced path - sickle d steeple - headstone - monument e slope - Tuscany - vineyard f crown - twig - acorn	vith the follo	
	<u>.</u>		/ 6 marks
	CULTURE		
6	•		
	 a <u>Complication</u> is added to complication. b Complication is added to <u>complication</u>. c The fourth phase of comedy is called <u>the resolution</u>. d Unlike tragedy, comedy is more likely to feature <u>events concindividuals</u>. e The play reaches its <u>happy conclusion</u> in the dénouement. 	erning ordinar	y people or private
7	7 Complete the following sentences with ONE word.		
	 a The plays of Shakespeare that usually categorise of fun, irony and verbal wit. b Shakespeare's comedies also abound in disguises and mista c Shakespeare's use of disguise in comedy allows the author t dramatic irony. d tragedies, which always had a sad ending, Shake love and marriage. 	keno create a	deal of
			/ O marks

Cyber Homework I'll Serve This Duke

Exam Practice

F B2 FIRST ENGLISH TEST: READING AND USE OF ENGLISH PART 1

TIP: Look for grammar clues to help you rule out options.

Loor cooperation of the cooperat	ove parente pa	is a recurring the ssionate love, are dies (for he (2) doxical quality of sund experience in with Orsino, the He is lost in a semoans the unrenas been trying the suitors - (5) in order to mound ersistent suitor of a casily forgets and that she is	emond the second of the second	e in Shakespea the bard definit the bard definit the same time. Duke of Illyria, to beless melanch hable Olivia. He ourt her, but sher brother's depite Olivia's (6) dy is taken by sout Olivia when love with him. affliction, every	re, tely rot with the second s	thas a special is the so-called 'produce is so-called 'produce is so-called 'produce is sperately loves is state and has determined to has been discoutision to seclude the Orsino stubble in the process of the sout that is in o simply staring we have united to have united in the simo simply staring we have united in the simon simply staring we have united in the solution in the simon simply staring we have united in the solution in the simon simply staring we have united in the solution in the	insipole of insipo	C, or D) best fits each gap it be courtly, unrequited, ght into the topic. In his love em' comedies), love has the wonderful, a playful and f his most performed plays, for the beautiful noblewoman is musicians perform for him as her affection ging him — along with any erself from the world for seven only hangs on to the role of interest in him. His grief is so pens at the end of the play. Esario is (7)
1	Α	both	В	either	C	whether	D	if
		as well	_	even		too	_	also
		both		either		also		neither
		conquer		win		beat		achieve
		with		making		following		for
		less		lack		shortage		loss
		only		instead		truly		actually
8	Α	as	В	like	C	through	D	about

B2 FIRST EN	IGLISH TEST: READING	AND USE OF	ENGLISH PART 4
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Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence using the word given without changing it. You must use between two and six words, including the word given.

1	In Elizabethan theatre, men had to play women's roles, too. PLAYED In Elizabethan theatre, women's
2	The audience were accustomed to seeing men playing female roles. USED The audiencemen playing female roles.
3	Feste has more fun with wordplay than all the other characters. MUCH No other characteras Feste.
4	Words are so full of contradictions that the speaker can't control their meaning. FOR Words have too
5	Feste rearranges sentences so that words signify something different than they appear to mean. MEANING Feste rearranges sentences so that words what they appear to have
6	"Did you meet Countess Olivia?", Malvolio asked Viola. MET Malvolio asked Viola Countess Olivia.
7	It's only when Orsino discovers Viola's true identity that he stops longing for Olivia. UNTIL It discovers Viola's identity that he stops longing for Olivia.

Exam Practice

B2 FIRST ENGLISH TEST: READING AND USE OF ENGLISH PART 2

Read the text below and write the word which best fits each gap. Use only ONE word to fill each gap.

Twelfth Night features a variety of themes and issues, (1)	
The characters often fail to communicate constructively. On more than one occasion, the words seem to mean one thing, before being twisted around to mean another. It is than to riddles, as well as disguise, that Viola manages to conceal her real identity. A crucial ris (6)	nks role ting livia of

B2 FIRST ENGLISH TEST: WRITING PART 2

You have been chosen to direct a modern version of Twelfth Night. What changes would you make to the original plot? Which actors would you choose to play the different roles? What songs or whose music would you use for the soundtrack? Write your answers in the form of a plan for the producers, describing your ideas in 140-190 words.

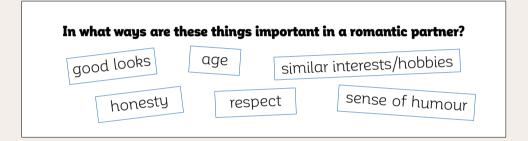
■ B2 💬 FIRST ENGLISH TEST: SPEAKING PART 3

TIP: Develop each idea before moving on to the next one.

Task for Candidates A and B:

Discuss the question below in pairs.

TIP: Turn your chair a little towards your partner, it will help you to remind who you have to talk to.



B2 (C) FIRST ENGLISH TEST: SPEAKING PART 4

TIP: In the actual exam, the questions are not written down. Listen carefully and ask the examiner to repeat if you don't understand.

Ouestions for Candidate A:

Do you think you can find real love on the internet? Why/Why not? What are the pros and cons of using a dating site?

Questions for Candidate B:

Do you think people change when they are in a relationship? Give examples. When can this be a good thing and when can it be a bad thing?

Shakespeare Wordbank

Character The characters are the people in a story, play or poem.

Comedy Comedy is a type of drama that is amusing in tone and that has a happy ending, usually after the characters overcome a set of difficulties.

Context The situation (social, historical, biographical and geographical) in which a text is written.

Dialogue The words that the characters say to each other. Other types of speech include *monologue* (when only one character speaks) or *soliloquy* (when a character speaks alone and reflects on his/her feelings).

Drama A literary genre which begins as a written text but which is meant for performance. A single piece of drama is known as a *play*.

Figures of speech Phrases and expressions that use words in a figurative way. The most common figures of speech include *metaphor* (when something with similar characteristics is used to describe the original), *simile* (when something with similar characteristics is compared to the original, using 'as' or 'like').

Form How a poem or piece of writing appears on the page.

Genre A type of literature. For example, drama is a literary genre.

Performance When a script is acted out on stage, on screen or on the radio.

Play A piece of drama. The author of a play is called a *playwright* or *dramatist*. Plays can be divided into acts, and acts can be subdivided into scenes. A scene usually covers a single event in a single setting.

Poem Piece of writing with the words arranged in separate lines, often using rhyme, and chosen for the ideas they suggest and sounds they create.

Rhyme Same sounds usually at the end of lines (rhyme-time). Rhymes can create patterns and these patterns are often indicated by using the letters of the alphabet (A, B, C, etc.) to mark rhyming words. The pattern generated is called the 'rhyme scheme'.

Sonnet A type of poem of which the earliest examples were Italian. Petrarch established the form with his *Canzoniere* (1366-1374) influencing poets worldwide.

Stage directions In a play, they are the instructions and information given by the playwright which accompany the dialogue. They are usually in italics to distinguish them from the dialogue. They can give information about the characters, their physical appearance and their feelings and behaviour as well as their actions, movements, facial expressions and gestures.

Story(line) In drama, the storyline is the main events given in chronological order.

Theme The central idea of a work, usually expressed in abstract terms, such as 'evil', 'love', etc.