



# ASL SHAKESPEARE PROJECT

## LESSON PLAN 12: “By This Hand...”

SECTION *Twelfth Night*; SUBSECTION Themes; MOVIES 8-10

### OBJECTIVE

The student will identify and analyze the creative uses of the word or signs for “Hand” on the stage.

### WHAT TO DO

1. Explain to the class that the play portrays many instances of dramatic uses of the Hand by actors. The word “hand” or “hands” are mentioned thirty-three times in *Twelfth Night*. Watch the ASL video about “Hands” under the “Themes” section of the website. The word “hand” is used in many idiomatic phrases in English. Read these examples below and ask students to explain their meaning. Have them come up with additional examples:

EXAMPLE	MEANING
<i>to get out of hand</i>	if a situation gets out of hand, it cannot be controlled any longer
<i>out of hand</i>	if you refuse something out of hand, you refuse it completely without thinking about it or discussing it
<i>hand over fist</i>	if you make money hand over fist, you make large amounts of it very quickly.
<i>on hand</i>	something “on hand” means it is immediately available.
<i>give someone a hand</i>	to help someone do something, or to applaud them.
<i>have blood on your hands</i>	to be responsible for someone’s death.
<i>hands down</i>	something done very easily.
<i>tip your hand</i>	to let other people know what you are planning to do

2. On the next page are listed some additional examples of “hand” mentioned in the play. Two examples mention the word “hand” directly. The first example shows how hands are used to “mask” Viola’s identity. Have the students watch both scenes on the DVD. Ask the class to come up with alternative ways to translate the lines or find other examples throughout the play

*continued...*

## EXAMPLES OF USE OF HANDS

CHARACTER	LINES	SITUATION	DRAMATIZATION OF THE HAND
Viola in Act 2, Scene 2	“And she, mistaken, seems to dote on me. What will become of this? As I am man...”	Viola realizes the true nature of Olivia’s inter- est in her (him).	Viola uses the Hand as a Mask and unmask it when talking about her true self and masks it again when she returns to her disguise.
Malvolio in Act 2, Scene 3	“...you would not give means for this uncivil rule: she shall know of it, by this hand.”	Malvolio threatens to notify Olivia if Belch does not heed his lady’s request to quiet down.	Malvolio raises his hand to- ward Olivia who is unseen on the stage; he would “open” his hand and “tattle on” Belch if necessary.
Maria in Act 2, Scene 3	“I can write very like my lady your niece: on a forgotten matter we can hardly make dis- tinction of our hands.”	Maria tells Sir Toby and Sir Andrew of her in- tention to write a forged letter to make Malvolio think that Olivia is in love with him.	Hand in this instance means “handwriting.” Notice how she uses her hand and Olivia’s and makes a comparison be- tween the two.