



ASL SHAKESPEARE PROJECT

LESSON PLAN 9: Romantic Comedies

SECTION *Twelfth Night*; SUBSECTION Comedies; MOVIE 1 (Romantic Comedies)

OBJECTIVE

To understand the genre of romantic comedy and to explore how *Twelfth Night* meets the criteria for romantic comedy.

BACKGROUND

Romantic Comedies are characterized by the following:

1. Themes of love and desire
2. Plot devices including:
 - > Frustration of true love
 - > Journey by a loved one
 - > Improbable or magical event
 - > Resolution in marriage arising from a discovery about identity
 - > Overcoming of obstacles to fulfill erotic desire
 - > Use of a setting in nature where a confusion of values and relationships occurs
3. Commentary on the following:
 - > Tyranny
 - > Patriarchal rule
 - > Material matters
 - > Religious oppositions
 - > Anxieties about gender
4. Female characters who address the main themes and values
5. Jokes and puns
6. Physical humor
7. A subplot in which “clowns” parody the main themes
8. Heteroerotic and homoerotic subplots
9. Platonic love and sexual love

WHAT TO DO

Compare the play *Twelfth Night* with the criteria for a Romantic Comedy.

Pick one criterion and demonstrate how it is satisfied by:

- > Choosing lines and scenes
- > Writing a paragraph or essay
- > Making a storyboard
- > Role playing
- > Making a timeline
- > Making a chart, table, or poster