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CHARACTER SKETCH OF VIOLA

Viola is avowedly Shakespeare's most sparkling and delightful female character created by him in whole range of his plays. In the play she is targeted by the fellows who express the extremes of unreal emotionalism. Orsino is sick of over sentimentality and melancholy while Olivia suffers from unreal mood of mourning for a dead brother which is more than a genuine grief. On the other hand, to add to her burden, she has to perform in male disguise too. Despite of all these she is never desperate

and exhibit normal behavior in the strange and alien world of Illyria.

First of all, we find her as a practical and reasonable lady. As an orphan of shipwreck who has no one to protect her, she must adopt some ways at a place where her safety would be assured. She is aware that it is highly dangerous for her as a lonely girl to wander about in a foreign land. For that first of all she evaluates the character of the sea captain which she finds well. To be more safe she also disguises herself into a boy so that she might have freedom to move about without any protection. Further we find Viola quick-witted enough to evaluate her situation, of sound enough judgment to recognize the captain's integrity, resourceful enough to conceive of the disguise, and practical enough to carry out this design.

Viola also owns immense amount of intelligence, wit and charm at the same time. Because of this she succeeds in obtaining her position with Duke Orsino. As well as, only these attributes of Viola make lady Olivia to immediately fall in love with her and Viola gets

success in winning sea captain's loyalty. And within a short period of time, her wit, charm, loyalty and her skill in music and conversation won for her the complete trust of Duke Orsino .We should also remember that even though she is in love with the duke, she is loyal to her missions when she tries to win lady Olivia's love for him.

To sum up ,we may say that Viola's charm lies in her simple, straightforward, good humoured personality. She could have used her disguise for all sorts of conniving, yet she is simple and honest in all her dealings with lady Olivia and the duke. Moreover, she uses her disguise to entertain the audience with delightful verbal puns too.So we can say that no demerits, only merits are found in her character.
