**Important Quotations in *Twelfth Night* Assignment**

Select 2 quotations from below and explain the significance to PLOT, THEME, and/or CHARACTER. If the quote is significance to all three than you must explain all three. Be extensive and specific. Don’t leave anything out. DO NOT RETELL ME WHAT THE QUOTE IS SAYING. Answer the SO WHAT question.

1. O spirit of love, how quick and fresh art thou,
That notwithstanding thy capacity
Receiveth as the sea, naught enters there,
Of what validity and pitch so'er,
But falls into abatement and low price
Even in a minute. (I.i.9-14)

2. So full of shapes is fancy
That it alone is high fantastical. (I.i.14-15)

3. O when mine eyes did see Olivia first,
Methought she purged the air of pestilence; (I.i.18-19)

4. That instant was I turned into a hart,
And my desires, like fell and cruel hounds,
E'er since pursue me. (I.i.20-22)

5. There is a fair behaviour in thee, captain
And though that nature with a beauteous wall
Doth oft close in pollution, yet of thee
I well believe thou hast a mind that suits
With this thy fair and outward character. (I.ii.43-47)

6. Even so quickly may one catch the plague?
Methinks I feel this youth's perfections
With an invisible and subtle stealth
To creep in at mine eyes. (I.v.285-288)

7. Fate, show thy force; ourselves we do not owe.
What is decreed must be; and be this so. (I.v.300-301)

8. Have you not set mine honour at the stake
And baited it with all th'unmuzzled thoughts
That tyrannous heart can think? (III.i.116-118)

**Exemplar**

**Feste**: But do you remember—
'Madam, why laugh you at such a barren rascal,
and you smile not, he's gagged'?
And thus the whirligig of time brings in his revenges.

**Malvolio**: I'll be revenged on the whole pack of you! (V.i.370-374)

Analysis 🡪 Feste's line reminds Malvolio of the incident in Act I, scene v in which Malvolio dismisses the wit of the fool. Clearly, Feste has nursed a grudge against the steward for his condescending rebuke, and the 'jest' against Malvolio in the dark house has been by way of Feste's revenge. The 'whirligig of time' becomes the explanation as to why Malvolio has been treated the way he has. The wheel has come full circle and Feste's remark seems to indicate that through the Sir Topas jest he and Malvolio are now square and the 'feud' between them can end. Malvolio however does not see it this way and seems set to continue the feud, which casts a damper of reality over the closing moments of the play. In the theatre, these lines have been played in countless different ways—particularly with regard to Malvolio's final line and exit. Malvolio's threat could be directly addressed to the perpetrators of the 'joke'—Maria, Sir Toby and Fabian, or more specifically at Feste with whom he seems to have a running antagonism. Maria describes Malvolio as a "kind of Puritan" (II.iii.135), and it has also been suggested that this line anticipates the Puritan control of England forty years later during which the theatres were closed and 'Twelfth Night' revels were ended.