

Comaprison/Contrast Olivia and Viola

Viola	Both	Olivia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Her love seems to be the purest, unlike Olivia's who goes from loving Viola to loving Sebastian, and Orsino who goes from loving Olivia to loving Viola.</li> <li>○ Disguises herself as a man.</li> <li>○ Has a problem with identity, as she must be both herself and Cesario.</li> <li>○ Makes the best out of her unfortunate situation instead of rolling over and giving up.</li> <li>○ Has to hide her love of Orsino from everyone, due to her position.</li> <li>○ Her brother ends up alive, whereas Olivia's does not.</li> <li>○ Is unable to express her true feelings for the one she loves.</li> <li>○ Is able to have an emotional connection with the one she loves without to obstacle of just getting in the, as she must conduct herself as a man.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mourning the loss of a brother.</li> <li>● In love with someone they cannot have.</li> <li>● Both are struck with love-sickness.</li> <li>● Both have a point where they are indistinguishable – Olivia, when Cesario cannot tell which is the lady of the house when confronting Maria and Olivia</li> <li>● -Viola, who's brother is mistaken for her near the end of the play</li> <li>● It is as if they can both be interchangeable characters.</li> <li>● Both had been loved by the same man.</li> <li>● Both caught in a love triangle. (Dramatic Irony)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Self-indulgent</li> <li>○ In the beginning, she prefers to lock herself up in her home and not see anyone outside her household.</li> <li>○ Is out of touch with real emotion.</li> <li>○ Clings to Cesario/Viola, no matter how much he/she rejects Olivia.</li> <li>○ Falls in love with Cesario, who has a false identity, and then falls in love with someone whom she mistakes for Cesario, showing that her love is not really serious, but is more of a lust.</li> <li>○ Sticks to much to shows of formality throughout much of the play, due to her aristocratic nature.</li> <li>○ Easily forgets that she is in mourning for her brother once she becomes fascinated with Cesario – shows that it was more of an act or a show she was putting on, rather than coming from her heart.</li> </ul>