

Comparison/Contrast Olivia and Viola

Viola	Both	Olivia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. ○ Disguises herself as a man. ○ Has a problem with identity, as she must be both herself and Cesario. ○ Makes the best out of her unfortunate situation instead of rolling over and giving up. ○ Has to hide her love of Orsino from everyone, due to her position. ○ Her brother ends up alive, whereas Olivia's does not. ○ Is unable to express her true feelings for the one she loves. ○ 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mourning the loss of a brother. ● In love with someone they cannot have. ● Both are struck with love-sickness. ● 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 ● -Viola, who's brother is mistaken for her near the end of the play ● It is as if they can both be interchangeable characters. ● Both had been loved by the same man. ● Both caught in a love triangle. (Dramatic Irony) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Self-indulgent ○ In the beginning, she prefers to lock herself up in her home and not see anyone outside her household. ○ Is out of touch with real emotion. ○ Clings to Cesario/Viola, no matter how much he/she rejects Olivia. ○ 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. ○ Sticks to much to shows of formality throughout much of the play, due to her aristocratic nature. ○ 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.