

Shakespeare's Couples

The Merchant of Venice vs. Twelfth Night

Shakespeare uses similar characters to fit his classifications for couples.

Realistic Couples

Portia/Bassanio vs. Viola/Orsino

Both couples are the lead characters that progress the play through the plots onto the ending.

Both females have a fair amount of control in their relationship.

Portia has control with her use of the ring plot.

Viola teaches Orsino about true Love vs obsession.

Sexual Couples

Nerissa/Gratiano vs. Sir Toby/Maria

Both couples are servants or relatives to the lead characters.

The ladies jest against men

Nerissa jests against Gratiano VS. Maria jests against Malvolio in the ring plot

Romantic Couples

Jessica/Lorenzo vs. Olivia/Sebastian

These characters set the plots for a happy ending.

Olivia is the only one that plays a lead role while the other three are supporting characters.

They both have references to famous lovers