

(TS)Toby and Maria epitomize the definition of true love as she cares for him despite his constant indecencies, and he slowly grows to care for her as he realizes the depth of their connection. (CD) In the beginning of the play, Maria tries to warn Toby about his alcohol problem and the terrible effects it may have: “By my troth, Sir Toby, you must come in earlier o’ nights [...] That quaffing and drinking will undo you” (1.3.4-14). (COM 1) This is the first scene that truly shows the nature of Toby and Maria’s relationship and introduces them as a couple. Toby enters in a drunken state, where Maria immediately rushes to his aid. (COM 2 & 3) Even though Toby may be a lost cause, Maria never gives up on him and constantly looks out for his well-being. She is able to look past his issues and guard the flame of their connection. His constant mischievous endeavors put a strain on their relationship, but she always finds it in herself to forgive him and see his true character. Over time, people usually stop putting up with a toxic person, but the opposite occurs for Maria, as she is able to love him more fiercely with her loyalty. In the midst of tremendous weight, most relationships bend under the pressure. Maria is able to endure this stress because she possesses true love that can withstand dilemmas because of its strong foundations. (PT) On the other hand, Toby shows the existence of true love in a different way. (CD) He is slow in recognizing their love, but he follows his heart: “Maria writ the letter at Sir Toby’s great importance, / In recompense whereof he hath married her” (5.1.385-386). (COM 1) In the end of the play, Fabian unveils Maria and Toby’s happy conclusion. Toby’s love for Maria came about in an unconventional way, but it was rooted in the experiences that they shared. He noticed her loyalty, and all the trials that they had conquered throughout their times together. (COM 2 & 3) All of this coupled together allowed him to express his love through marriage. Everyone shows love differently, but the demonstration of their true love was through him giving Maria what she wanted, and what he wanted deep down; to be married.

People often neglect those who they love because they know that their connection is deep enough to last, and that person will always be there for them. Hence, Toby comes off as manipulative towards Maria, but he ultimately recognizes the truth behind their relationship, evidenced by him committing the rest of his life to be with her. Furthermore, Toby and Maria have a relationship defined by true love because they develop their love throughout time and never give up on each other through trying circumstances. **(TRANS)** Another strong relationship that shares these necessary attributes for true love is that of Viola and Orsino.