

Twelfth Night Sample Paragraph

(TS) Even though Antonio loves Sebastian truly, he will never be happy in love because Sebastian marries Olivia and only loves Antonio as a friend. (CD) Antonio's true love for Sebastian is obvious early on in *Twelfth Night* when he declares that "I have many enemies in Orsino's court, Else would I very shortly see thee there. But, come what may, I do adore thee so That danger shall seem sport, and I will go." (2.1.40-43) (COM 1) In the very first scene of the play where the reader is introduced to Sebastian and Antonio, it is very clear that Antonio has very strong feelings for Sebastian. In this section of the play, Antonio explains that he can not follow Sebastian into Illyria without putting himself at risk. He reveals that he has enemies in Orsino's court. (COM 2) However, the definition of true love dictates that the person in love, in this case Antonio, will put their own happiness to the side in order to make their true love happy. Antonio reveals that he "adore(s)" Sebastian and he will face danger in order to serve him. If putting your love's happiness before your own is the definition of true love, then Antonio loves Sebastian truly. He shows this throughout the entire play. He follows Sebastian to Illyria and consistently puts himself in harm's way in order to protect and serve his "friend." He sets him up in a hotel with a line of credit, and he also intervenes when he mistakenly thinks Sebastian is dueling with Sir Andrew. The sense of betrayal that he feels when Cesario denies him his purse, is evidence of the deep emotional connection he feels for Sebastian. (COM 3) A person would only put himself in harm's way like this for true love. People who are truly in love are concerned with the happiness of their significant other. A person who does not love truly would not put themselves in harm's way the way Antonio does consistently throughout the play. True love is selfless and Antonio is the most selfless character in the play and his true love for Sebastian is visible in his every action. (PT) What is not so visible, is any kind of true love on Sebastian's

part for Antonio. **(CD)** In the same scene where the reader finds out that Antonio will risk his life for Sebastian, Antonio tells Sebastian that the one thing that will make Antonio happy is to be with Sebastian. Sebastian replies “If you will not undo what you have done—that is, kill him whom you have recovered—desire it not. Fare you well at once. My bosom is full of kindness, and I am yet so near the manners of my mother, that upon the least occasion more mine eyes will tell tales of me. I am bound to the Count Orsino’s court. Farewell.” (2.1.33-38) **(COM 1)**

Antonio tells Sebastian that the one thing that will make him happy would be to “serve” Sebastian, and Sebastian denies him this. Sebastian decides to leave his friend and heads to Illyria alone, leaving Antonio behind. **(COM 2)** If true love is putting the happiness of the person you love before your own, then Sebastian does not love truly. There is not one moment in the play where Sebastian puts Antonio’s wants and needs before his own. This is further on display in act three when Antonio wants Sebastian to come to the hotel with him because Antonio can not walk the streets of Illyria without putting himself in danger. Sebastian’s response? He tells Antonio that he is not tired yet and he wants to see the sights of the town. **(COM 3)** Sebastian acts like a petulant child throughout the play putting himself before everyone else. Even in his marriage to Olivia, Sebastian puts his needs before others. He knows that Olivia is making a mistake in marrying him. He tells the reader that the whole situation seems off, but he goes through with this marriage for selfish reasons. Sebastian does not love anyone truly except himself, leaving Antonio heartbroken. **(TRANS)** Even though true love was one-sided in this relationship, it is found on both sides of the relationship between two other characters in the play.