

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

Now that you've heard *Twelfth Night* in performance, consider what you feel to be the main ideas of the play.

- What did Shakespeare hope to accomplish with this play?
- Is there a theme or recurring motif that stands out?
- Did this production convey the director's ideas on the play?
- What did the director feel were most important features of the play and how were they illustrated?

HEARING THE WORDS

Shakespeare's language is poetic, rhythmic, and dense with imagery. It's meant to be heard by an audience of everyday people.

- How did the actors make the meaning of their words clear?
- Were there changes in tone, volume, pitch or speed that helped important words or ideas stand out to the audience?
- Discuss the actors who were most successful in making their words "live."
- How did they use their words to make the meaning clear?

Hearing a Play

While they may have worn lavish costumes, there was rarely any set to speak of in Shakespeare's time, and only minimal props were used. Shakespeare's words had to create the setting, tone, and atmosphere of the whole play. With emphasis on the aural elements of the visual elements at the theatre, most playgoers would say they were going to "hear" a play rather than seeing one as we would say today.