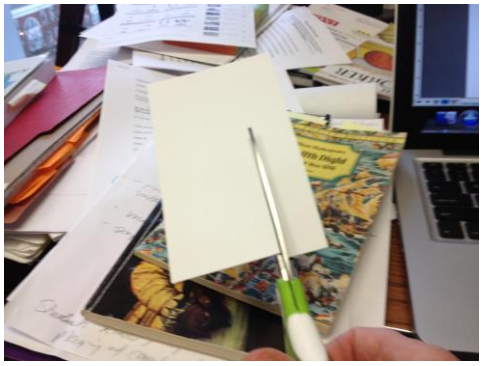
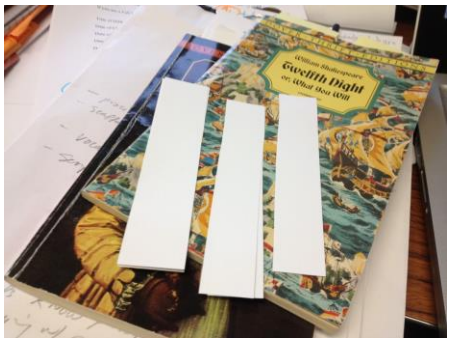
A Day-One Activity from Cheryl Jackson, North Marshall Middle School

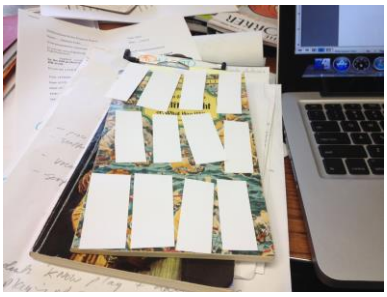
Objective: To familiarize students with the characters before we begin the prose version of the play.

Give students 2 index cards each. Have them cut them into three long strips,

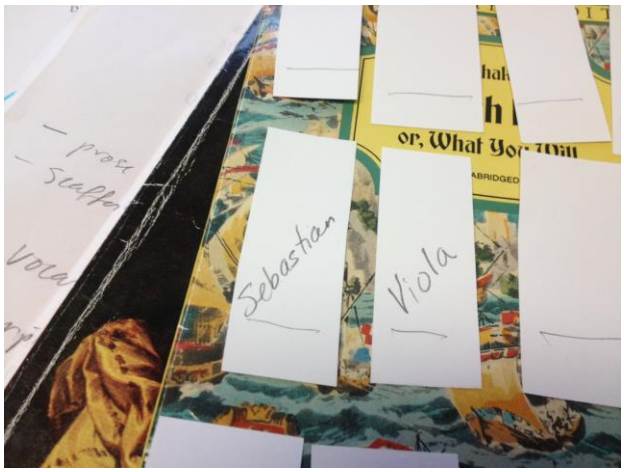




and then cut those strips in half,



yielding 12 strips. Reserve a small square (half inch) on the bottom of each strip.

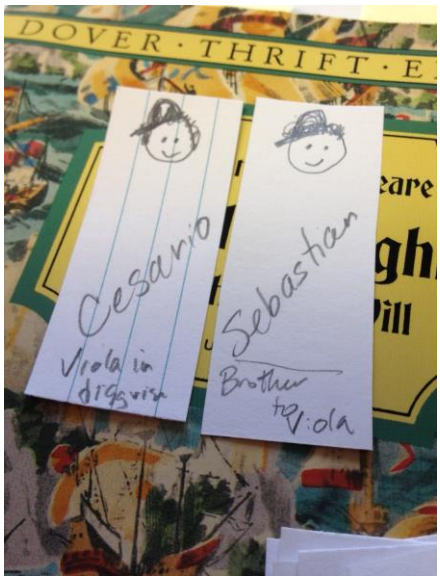


In the middle of each strip, write the name of a character from the play. For the characters that use disguises, write their other “name” on the back. (Viola on side 1, Cesario on side 2)

Describe each character: Sebastian, Viola/Cesario, Orsino, Olivia, Maria, Malvolio, Sir Toby Belch, Sir Andrew Aguecheek, Feste/Sir Topas, Fabian, Antonio. (11 total)

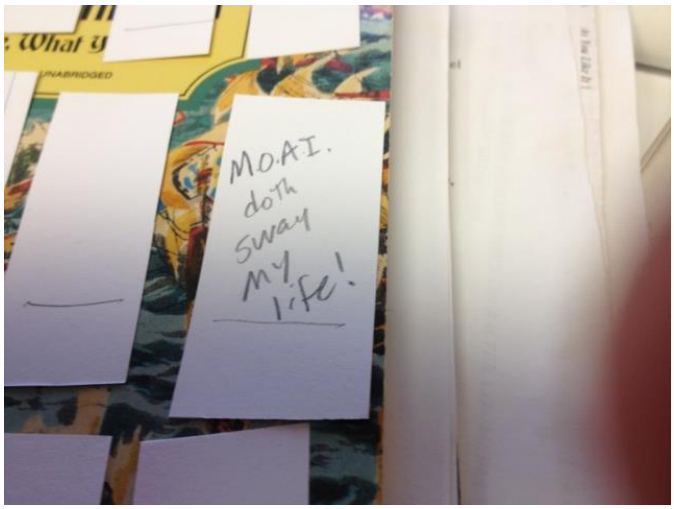
Have students draw a face to represent each character, and add a brief description (top and bottom, or bottom and top). Show off really good designs on a document camera, or take pictures, transfer to your computer, and project.

Here's one from Cheryl's class! Love Feste's hat!

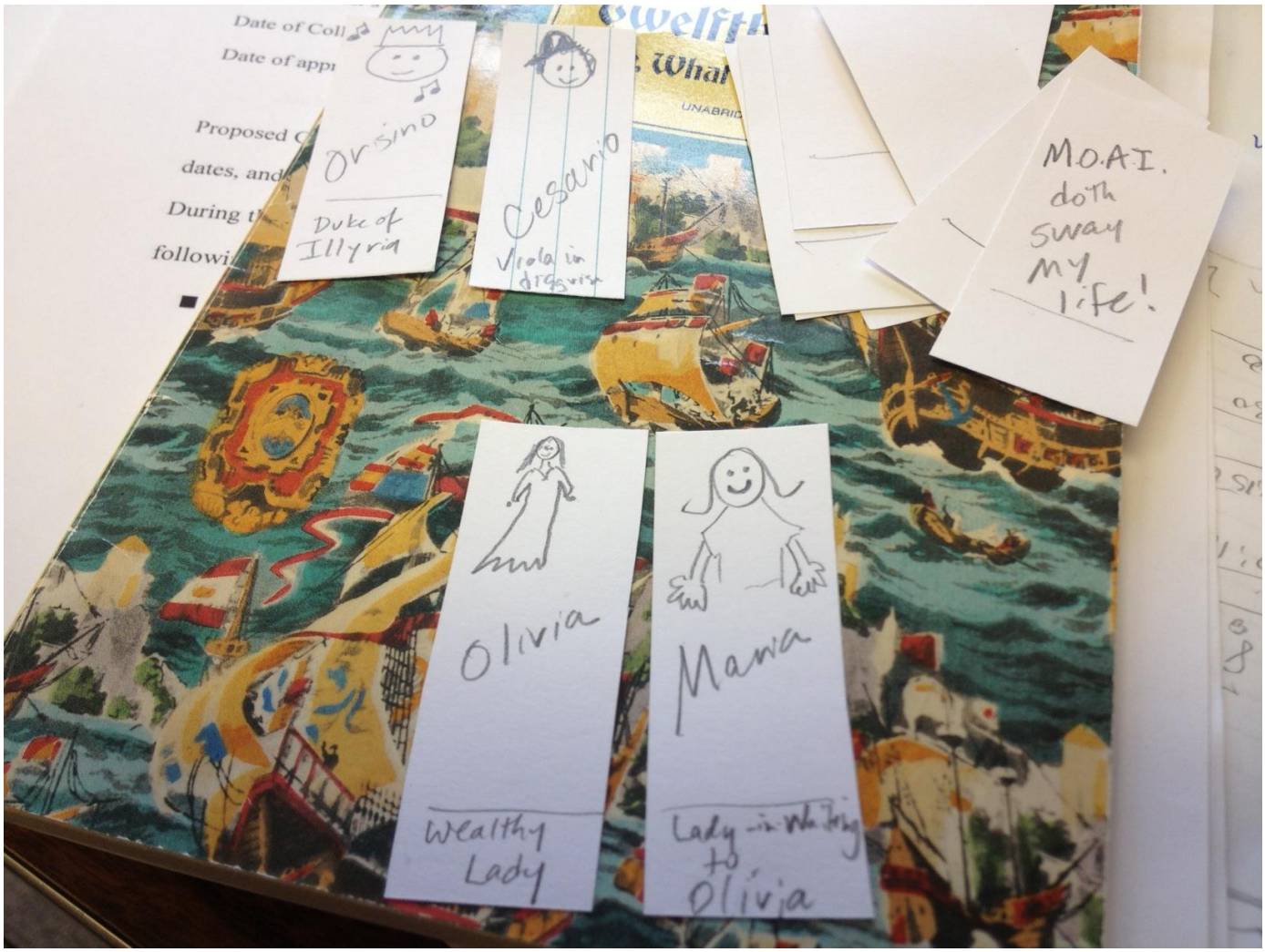


And here's another example – matching hats for "Cesario" and Sebastian.

Have students use the one extra piece to make the "letter" that Maria writes and Malvolio finds: have them write M.O.A.I. doth sway my life on it!



Begin reading prose version. As we read the play, have students move character strips around on their desks to simulate the different relationships between/among characters.



You might want students to do the drawing and identifying, or have them add to their character cards, as part of the story-telling process.