

# Twin tales activity sheet

## Activity

Use your imagination to write an account of the time Viola and Sebastian spent in Illyria, from each of their points of view.

Here is an imaginary account of family life by each of Shakespeare's twins, Hamnet and Judith which you could perhaps use to inspire your own ideas!

### Hamnet's Tale

It's loads of fun being a twin and being the only boy means I will be the head of the family one day. And, as my father is away a lot, I can boss my twin sister Judith around. I also get to boss sister Susanna around a little even though she's nearly 2 years older than me.

Being a twin means you've always got a friend. Judith and I are so close and the best of friends. I must admit, sometimes we play tricks on our older sister Susanna. We like hiding in cupboards and jumping out on her when she is walking by. She scolds us gently and laughs but is never really gets angry with us. Susanna is always so sensible, busying herself with her duties around the house, so we like to get her attention as much as we can. Sometimes, I think Susanna is too grown up for her age and should play a bit more. I guess she feels she must help Mother more now that Father is away in London so much.

I really miss Father. I especially miss all the stories he tells me. He tells me of explorers who have seen a world beyond the ocean. I imagine that world, a world where the sun always shines, and mysterious creatures and beasts wander the land. He makes it all sound so mysterious and far more exciting than smelly Stratford town. Sometimes he makes up stories about these faraway lands and talks about how twins get lost and then find each other again. I could listen to his stories for hours.

I don't think Judith and I will ever get lost in Stratford-upon-Avon though. It's far too small and everybody knows us!!

# Twin tales activity sheet

## Judith's Tale

Well, Hamnet and I are so very lucky even though Father isn't home much these days. Although we live in Stratford town, we have lots of family that live in the villages arounds us, and I particularly like going to visit the farm where my grandmother grew up.

Hamnet and I visit the farm as much as Mother allows. There we learn so much about the land and how it provides for us. I love smelling the fresh sweet herbs and finding out which ones are best to help with ailments and illness, and which to cook with.

My most favourite thing to do there is to run, run fast with my twin brother, Hamnet. We are so free on the farm and the air feels clean and fresh smelling. Hamnet and I run as far as we can and then climb trees in the woods together. Sometimes we gather the berries that I know are safe to eat and carry them back to the farm in my apron. We must be watchful not to stain our clothes otherwise Mother would be furious. My kirtle is so difficult to clean so I must be particularly careful. Mother has so much work to do while Father is away, I'd hate to give her more work to do. We all miss Father so much.

I often think that Hamnet's breeches are so much easier to climb trees in. Sometimes I wish, I could dress in his clothes, just to see how much easier it is to get about. He's always showing off that he climbed higher than me. If I was wearing his breeches, I bet I could a climb much higher than him then!

I wonder what would happen if I dressed like my brother just for one day. Everyone know us in Stratford-upon-Avon but I do wonder if anyone would recognise me or mistake me for Hamnet. It would be such an adventure!

