

Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare

<p>Explore how Beatrice is a strong female character and show how she deviates from typical attitudes of the time.</p>	<p>Summarise the 'merry war' between Beatrice and Benedick and show how their conflict is resolved at the end of the play.</p>	<p>Explain how the play demonstrates patriarchal values through characters and events.</p>
<p>Define the different attitudes shown towards love and marriage.</p>	<p>Explain the role of the 'plain-dealing' villain, Don John, and his companions, Borachio and Conrad.</p>	<p>Download this PDF: www.bl.uk/teaching-resources/shakespeare-putting-much-ado-about-nothing-in-context-a-summary-of-sources, exploring the context and themes of the play.</p>
<p>Explain how Shakespeare uses puns and sexual innuendo in the play. In what ways do these uses of language hint at more serious themes?</p>	<p>Find all the references in the play to cuckoldry. How do these relate to the historical context of the play?</p>	<p>List all of Beatrice's criticisms of Benedick in Act 1 Scene 1. Support with quotations.</p>
<p>Find examples of malapropisms/ Dogberryisms used to create linguistic comedy.</p>	<p>What is the importance of the minor female characters, Margaret and Ursula?</p>	<p>Explain how dramatic irony is used in the play. Find at least three examples.</p>
<p>How is comedy created through Dogberry's continued references to how he was slandered and called 'an ass'?</p>	<p>How do events in the play conform to conventions of Shakespearean comedy?</p>	<p>Summarise the similarities and differences between the two 'gulling' scenes: Act 2 Scene 3 and Act 3, Scene 1. (Consider the contrast between prose and poetry, particularly in soliloquies.)</p>

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<p>Create a mood or tension graph for each scene of the play.</p>	<p>What are the different attitudes shown towards women in the play?</p>	<p>How does Beatrice change over the course of the play?</p>
<p>Explain the role of the comic characters of Dogberry and the Watch. In what ways are they instrumental to the plot? How do the comic characters interact with the main characters?</p>	<p>How does Benedick change over the course of the play?</p>	<p>Find two examples of: simile, metaphor and personification. Explain their effect in analytical paragraphs, ensuring that you link meaning to context.</p>
<p>Starting with Act 4 Scene 1, explore how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Leonato and Hero.</p> <p>Write about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> attitudes to Hero the relationship in the play as a whole. 	<p>How is the character of Claudio presented in the play?</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> his actions towards Hero his friendship with Don Pedro his trust in Don John the outcomes for him at the end of the play. <p>How does he measure up against Benedick, as a leading figure in a romantic comedy?</p>	<p>Starting with Act 2 Scene 1, how does Shakespeare use masks and deceptions in the play?</p>

