

Much Ado About Nothing

Worksheet A

Hero is jilted at the alter by Claudio.
Benedick and Beatrice get married.
Hero reveals her true identity.
Hero's father, Leonato, pretends that Hero is dead to save her reputation.
Don John is arrested for being deceptive.
Don John pretends to make love to Hero.
Claudio falls in love with Hero.
Claudio agrees to marry Hero's mystery cousin.
Claudio believes Hero has cheated on him.
Claudio grieves for Hero.
Claudio and Hero get married.
Beatrice and Benedick secretly fall in love with each other.

Extract 1

Beatrice and Benedick have yet to declare their love for each other. At this point in the story they are still being rude to each other. At a party Benedick is in disguise and pretends to be someone else. Beatrice is very rude about Benedick to his face. We don't know whether she knows if it is really Benedick or not. Here is Benedick's reaction to what she said.

"O, she misused me past the endurance of a block; an oak but with one green leaf on it would have answered her; my very visor began to assume life and scold with her: she told me, - not thinking I had been myself, - that I was the prince's jester; that I was duller than a great thaw; huddling jest upon jest with such impossible conveyance upon me, that I stood like a man at a mark, with a whole army shooting at me."

Key words

An oak tree
 Jester
 Jest
 Dull(er)
 Army
 To shoot

Extract 2

This scene takes place the day before Claudio and Herio's wedding. Don John is

	should wed, there will I shame he
DON PEDRO	And as I wooed for thee to obtain her, I will join with thee to disgrace her
<p>Key-words and expressions</p> <p><i>What's the matter?</i></p> <p><i>Impediment</i></p> <p><i>Disloyal</i></p> <p><i>Wickedness</i></p> <p><i>Chamber</i></p> <p><i>Wedding</i></p> <p><i>To change your mind</i></p> <p><i>To dare</i></p> <p><i>To trust</i></p> <p><i>Congregation</i></p> <p><i>Shame</i></p> <p><i>To disgrace</i></p>	
Extract 3	
<i>This is the last scene of the play. Claudio still believes Hero is dead from the shame that his infidelity accusations caused her. He has promised to get married to Leonato's niece who is in fact Hero in disguise.</i>	
Enter DON PEDRO and CLAUDIO, and two or three others	
DON PEDRO	Good morrow to this fair assembly.
LEONATO	Good morrow, Prince; good morrow, Claudio. We here attend you. Are you yet determined today to marry with my brother's daughter?
CLAUDIO	I'll hold my mind were she an Ethiopie.
LEONATO	Call her forth, brother. Here's the friar ready.
DON PEDRO	Good morrow, Benedick. Why, what's the matter That you have such a February face, so full of frost, of storm and cloudiness?
CLAUDIO	I think he thinks upon the savage bull. Tush, fear not, man. We'll tip thy horns with gold, and all Europa shall rejoice at thee as once Europa did at lusty Jove when he would play the noble beast in love.
BENEDICK	Bull Jove, sir, had an amiable low, and some such strange bull leapt your father's cow and got a calf in that same noble feat. Much like to you, for you have just his bleat.
CLAUDIO	For this I owe you. Here comes other reck'nings.
Enter ANTONIO, HERO, BEATRICE, MARGARET, URSULA, the ladies masked	
CLAUDIO	Which is the lady I must seize upon?
LEONATO	This same is she, and I do give you her.
CLAUDIO	Why, then she's mine.—Sweet, let me

	see your face.
LEONATO	No, that you shall not till you take her hand before this friar and swear to marry her.
CLAUDIO (<i>to HERO</i>)	Give me your hand before this holy friar. I am your husband, if you like of me.
HERO	And when I lived, I was your other wife, and when you loved, you were my other husband. (<i>She unmasks</i>)
CLAUDIO	Another Hero!
HERO	Nothing certainer. One Hero died defiled, but I do live, and surely as I live, I am a maid.
DON PEDRO	The former Hero! Hero that is dead!
LEONATO	She died, my lord, but whiles her slander lived.
FRIAR FRANCIS	All this amazement can I qualify. When after that the holy rites are ended I'll tell you largely of fair Hero's death. Meantime let wonder seem familiar, and to the chapel let us presently.
Key-words and expressions Frost Storm Cloudiness I owe you To swear to do something Former Slander The chapel	

Worksheet B Famous Quotes

1. Find these quotes in the play.
2. What scene are they in?
3. Who says them and to whom?
4. What do they mean?

"I would my horse had the speed of your tongue..."

"He that hath a beard is more than a youth, and he that hath no beard is less than a man."

"...there was a star danced, and under that was I born."

"Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more,
Men were deceivers ever,
One foot in sea and one on shore,
To one thing constant never."

Worksheet C

Match the Shakespeare text to the modern translation.

1)	When I do name him, let it be thy part to praise him more than ever man did merit:	a)	You have ruined my innocent daughter. Your slander has broken her heart and killed her.
2)	Then go we near her, that her ear lose nothing of the false sweet bait that we lay for it.	b)	She's so in love with herself she doesn't even know what love is.
3)	She cannot love, nor take no shapenor project of affection, she is so selfendeared.	c)	Then let's get closer so that she can overhear what we're saying and take the bait
4)	I pray thee, cease thy counsel, which falls into mine ears as profitless as water in a sieve:	d)	When I mention his name you need to say what a great person he is.
5)	I say, thou hast belied mine innocent child; Thy slander hath gone through and through her heart, And she lies buried with her ancestors.	e)	Please stop giving me advice. I'm not listening to you.