



MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING



Family Night Packet

This project is made possible, in part, through the Putnam Arts Council's Arts Link Grant Program with public funds provided by Putnam County.

SHAKESPEARE
VALLEY
FESTIVAL
HUDSON
COUNTY



WHO'S WHO IN *MUCH ADO*?



Antonio

Brother of Leonato.



Beatrice

Niece to Leonato, engaged in a war of wits with Benedick.



Benedick

A young lord of Padua who claims he will never fall in love.



Borachio

A follower of Don John.



Claudio

A young lord of Florence who falls in love with Hero.



Conrade

A follower of Don John.



Dogberry

A constable seeking to uncover Don John's schemes.



Don John

The bastard half-brother of Don Pedro, to whom he recently lost in battle.



Don Pedro

Prince of Arragon, staying in Messina for a month following his victory in battle.



Friar Francis

Assists Hero when false accusations are made.



Hero

Daughter to Leonato, is wrongly accused of disloyalty.



Leonato

Governor of Messina, father to Hero, and uncle to Beatrice.



Margaret

Attendant to Hero.



Oatcake

One of Messina's watchmen.



Seacole

One of Messina's watchmen.



Ursula

Attendant to Hero.



Verges

Assists Dogberry in his investigation.

PLOT SUMMARY

In Messina, Italy, governor Leonato lives with his brother Antonio, his daughter Hero, and his niece Beatrice. Hero and Beatrice are very different: While Hero is quiet and sweet, Beatrice is outspoken and clever.

Soon to arrive are Prince Don Pedro's soldiers, returning to Messina after winning a war against Don Pedro's half-brother, Don John. Two of Don Pedro's soldiers are Claudio and Benedick. On the first night of their return, Claudio falls in love with Hero. He is too shy to talk to her, so he asks Don Pedro to woo her in his favor. Don Pedro agrees and asks Leonato if Claudio may marry Hero.

Don John, who is jealous of Claudio's victory in the war, decides to ruin his life in whatever way possible. Overhearing Don Pedro's offer to woo Hero for Claudio, Don John attempts to persuade Claudio that Don Pedro is actually wooing Hero for himself. This plan does not work out very well for Don John, and Claudio and Hero are still set to be married.

Meanwhile, Benedick and Beatrice frequently argue. Benedick and Beatrice are known for their "merry war," and they often trade clever insults. They both claim that they will never get married. While Claudio and Hero wait for their wedding day to arrive, they decide to pass the time by tricking Benedick and Beatrice into falling in love with each other. They do this by spreading rumors among the women that Benedick is in love with Beatrice and spreading rumors among the men that Beatrice is in love with Benedick. Benedick and Beatrice hear the rumors about each other and they end up falling in love!

Don John keeps scheming after his first failure, and he soon comes up with a new plan to ruin Claudio's happiness. He and his friends Borachio and Conrade decide to trick Claudio into thinking that Hero loves someone else. Don John leads Claudio to a spot outside Hero's window one night, where Borachio is wooing Margaret, Hero's attendant. Because it is nighttime, Claudio is tricked into thinking that Margaret is actually Hero! Deeply upset by this, Claudio denies a confused Hero at their wedding the next day.

Dogberry, the leader of Messina's Watch, is determined to keep an eye on the city. He sends some of his watchmen on a mission to watch out for any suspicious behavior, where they discover Borachio and Conrade discussing Don John's devious plans. The watchmen are able to capture Borachio and Conrade and bring them in for questioning. With the information Borachio and Conrade provide, Dogberry is able to clear Hero's name, and the play ends with two weddings: both that of Claudio and Hero, and that of Beatrice and Benedick!

The End.

WORD SEARCH

Help Dogberry protect Messina by uncovering Don John's evil plans in the word search below!

BORACHIO

CONRADE

DECEIVE

LIE

MARGARET

MARRIAGE

OATCAKE

RUIN

SEACOLE

TRICKERY

WEDDING

O	M	E	T	H	X	U	C	O	C	B	W	C	N	D
W	I	L	K	M	I	W	F	O	Z	G	B	I	C	B
M	P	H	Y	A	E	O	X	U	N	Z	X	V	N	L
C	P	U	C	D	C	R	N	J	T	R	U	E	I	R
D	Y	N	D	A	L	T	Q	F	E	Q	A	P	U	X
M	P	I	L	H	R	Z	A	Y	R	R	W	D	R	J
T	N	M	N	Q	N	O	R	O	A	O	F	Y	E	D
G	V	G	Q	L	G	E	B	N	G	K	S	C	J	E
C	E	C	F	X	K	M	A	R	R	I	A	G	E	C
T	R	W	D	C	S	B	I	I	A	U	Z	C	J	E
S	O	W	I	Y	P	F	B	H	M	E	C	Y	C	I
O	T	R	E	L	O	C	A	E	S	Y	E	T	Y	V
S	T	A	V	B	U	Q	P	E	J	I	O	G	D	E
V	H	Y	V	P	L	G	W	C	L	Q	W	H	A	N
S	X	B	U	W	Q	P	C	F	B	Z	L	F	K	N

HINT: Words may be written backwards, upside down, and/or diagonally!



MUCH ADO MAD LIBS

In *Much Ado About Nothing*, many of the characters gossip or spread misinformation. Sometimes, it can feel like a game of Mad Libs! Complete the list of words below before reading the story beneath it. Use the most creative words you can think of! After this, transfer the words from your list to the corresponding blank spaces in the story. Finally, read the story!

1. Adjective:
2. Adjective:
3. A character from *Much Ado*:
4. A verb ending in -ing:
5. A verb ending in -ing:
6. Another character from *Much Ado*:
7. An exclamation:
8. A restaurant chain:
9. A type of food served at #8:
10. Adjective:
11. Animal:
12. Celebrity:
13. Profession:
14. An insult:
15. Verb ending in -ing:
16. A different character from *Much Ado*:
17. Verb (past tense):
18. Adverb:

One _____ day, Benedick decided to go for a walk in the _____ city of Messina. During his walk, he found his
ADJECTIVE ADJECTIVE

friend _____, who was _____.
CHARACTER VERB ENDING
IN -ING.

"Good morrow," said Benedick.

"Good morrow Benedick," replied _____. "Have you heard? Beatrice was recently seen _____
SAME CHARACTER FROM #3 VERB ENDING
IN -ING.

with _____!"
ANOTHER
CHARACTER

"_____!" exclaimed Benedick. "I had no idea! I thought that Beatrice hated _____ and
EXCLAMATION SAME VERB
FROM #5

_____ as much as I hate _____!"
SAME CHARACTER FROM #6 NOUN

"It's true!" said his friend. "You can ask her yourself!"

And so he did (on the next page!).



Benedick walked to the nearby _____, where he expected to find Beatrice (she loves _____).

RESTAURANT CHAIN

FOOD FROM
RESTAURANT CHAIN

Instead, he discovered a(n) _____ sitting near the door.

ADJECTIVE ANIMAL

Benedick recognized the animal as Beatrice's pet, named _____ after the famous _____.

CELEBRITY

PROFESSION

Before he could say hello to the animal, he heard a noise behind him. Turning around, he saw Beatrice standing in front of him!

"Beatrice!" Benedick exclaimed. "I heard that you were _____ with _____!"

SAME VERB
FROM #5

SAME CHARACTER FROM #6

"No, you _____!" replied Beatrice. "I was _____ with _____." Picking up her

INSULT

VERB ENDING
IN -ING.

A DIFFERENT
CHARACTER

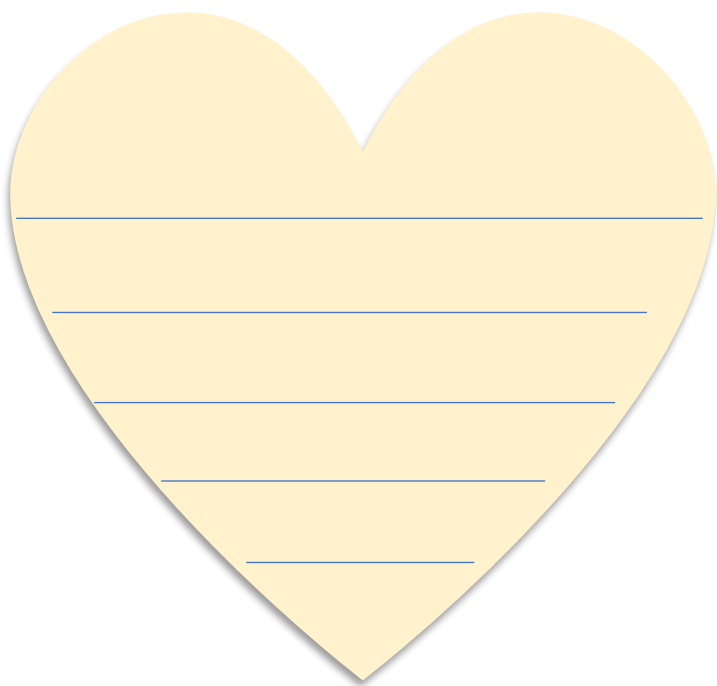
pet, Beatrice _____ at Benedick before walking away.

PAST TENSE VERB

"Well, I suppose that's what I deserve for listening to gossip," Benedick said _____.

ADVERB

The End.



Love Poem

When Claudio falls in love with Hero, his words become lyrical and romantic. Use the heart to write a poem for someone or something you love.

RUMOR HAS IT...

A game of "telephone," Shakespearean style! Help Claudio and Hero spread rumors about Benedick and Beatrice!

Directions:

1. Cut or rip out the quotes from *Much Ado About Nothing* written below. Try to avoid actually reading the quotes!
2. With some friends, sit or stand in a circle. Be close enough so that you can whisper to the person next to you, but not close enough that other players can hear!
3. Hand one of the quotes to one player and have them read the quote to themselves.
4. This player should whisper the quote into the ear of the player next to them.
5. Players continue the game by whispering the phrase they hear to their neighbor.
6. Once the final player is reached, they should say the phrase out loud. How much has the phrase changed from the quote written on the paper?

"She loves him with an enraged affection..."

(Leonato, Act 2 Scene 3)

"...for she says she will die if he love her not..."

(Claudio, Act 2 Scene 3)

"...he is unworthy so good a lady."

(Don Pedro, Act 2 Scene 3)

"...are you sure that Benedick loves Beatrice so entirely?"

(Ursula, Act 3 Scene 1)

"I will go to Benedick and counsel him to fight against his passion."

(Hero, Act 3 Scene 1)

"...she is prized to have...so rare a gentleman as Signor Benedick."

(Margaret, Act 3 Scene 1)

MASK-MAKING

Leonato has invited you to his masquerade party! Decorate the mask on this page so that you can join the revelry!

