

## Year 9 Unit 2: Much Ado About Nothing – Knowledge Organiser

**Reading Assessment:** The relationship between Beatrice and Benedick is described as 'a merry war' in the play; explore how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Beatrice and Benedick.

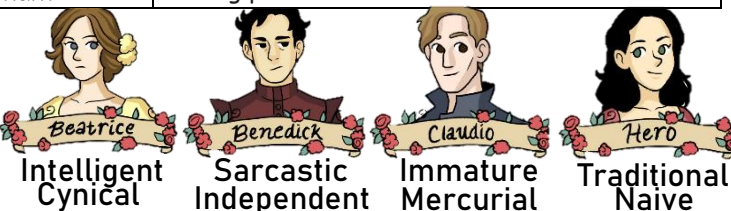
### Key characters:

Beatrice	Leonato's niece. Quick-witted and intelligent. She is in love with Benedick but doesn't realise it.
Benedick	A lord, a soldier and Don Pedro's friend. He is quick-witted & in love with Beatrice but doesn't realise it
Hero	Leonato's daughter. Young and naïve. Falls in love with Claudio and is accused of being unfaithful.
Claudio	A lord, a soldier and Don Pedro's friend. Young and naïve. Falls in love with Hero.
Leonato	Governor of Messina. Old and wise but easily swayed by the opinions of others – at first, he believes that Hero has been unfaithful.
Don John	The half-brother of Don Pedro. He is resentful and angry because of his status. He plots to destroy the happiness of others.
Don Pedro	Prince of Aragon
Antonio	Leonato's brother. He provides a steady influence.
Margaret	Hero's flirtatious serving lady who unwittingly helps in Don John's evil plan.
Conrad and Borachio	followers of Don John who help him to discredit Hero.

### Key vocabulary:

Patriarchy	Society in which men hold the power and women are largely excluded from it.
Gender inequality	Acknowledges men and women are not equal
Obedience	Submissive to another's authority.
Unrequited love	Love is not reciprocated – not returned.
Iambic pentameter	A line of verse with 5 metrical feet (stressed/unstressed)
Monologue	A long speech by one actor in a play/film.
Rejection	Dismissing or refusing an idea/plan etc.
Pathetic	Arousing pity through vulnerability or sadness
Honour	A quality of worthiness and respectability that affects the social standing.
Jealousy	Envious resentment of someone
Inferior	Lower in rank, status, or quality.
Dominant	Having power and influence over others

**'The women are made to feel forced and obligated to do as the men say. They accept their expected behaviours or roles set by the men' are all of the female characters like this?**



### KEY QUOTES!

- "It is certain that I am loved of all ladies, only you excepted. And I would I could find it in my heart that I had not a hard heart, for truly I love none." Benedick Act 1, Scene 1
- "I had rather hear my dog bark at a crow than a man swear he loves me" Beatrice, Act 1 Scene 1
- "He is the Prince's jester, a very dull fool." Beatrice, Act 2, Scene 1
- "I will be horribly in love with her." Benedick, Act 2, Scene 3
- "I am not as I have been." Benedick, Act 3, Scene 2.
- "I stand dishonoured, that have gone about to link my dear friend to a common stale." Don Pedro, Act 4, Scene 1
- "I do love nothing in the world so well as you. Is not that strange?" Benedick, Act 4, Scene 1
- "She died, my lord, but whiles her slander lived." Leonato, Act 5, Scene 4.

Metaphor  
Semantic field  
Dramatic Irony  
Hyperbole  
Declarative  
Oxymoron  
Alliteration

### CONTEXT!

- During the Elizabethan period, great emphasis was placed on masculine loyalty and honour to kin (relatives).
- Elizabethans lived in a Patriarchal society. Men were at the head of the household. The father of the household had to give his consent before a marriage could take place.
- Gender: It was a patriarchal society. Women were ruled by men and were expected to be submissive, sexually pure before marriage and meek. The idea that a woman could challenge a man was unheard of and would have shocked audiences.
- Sexual relationships before marriage were seen as a sin and socially unacceptable, particularly for women.
- Children conceived out of wedlock were illegitimate and were looked down upon by society. Illegitimate children were also known as 'bastards' (Don John is sometimes referred to as 'the Bastard') and were unable to inherit their father's wealth and titles.
- Unfaithful women and women who had a sexual relationship before marriage (especially those of noble birth) compromised their position within the social hierarchy.
- Men were supposed to be strong, brave and masculine (to be called feminine was an insult). It was acceptable for men to be sexually experienced before marriage.

### Themes of the play

- Love
- Deception
- Honour
- Gender



### Play synopsis

**Act 1:** Don Pedro, Claudio and Benedick arrive in Messina. Claudio and Hero falls in love. Benedick and Beatrice tease each other. Don John plans revenge on his brother.

**Act 2:** During a masked ball, Claudio and Hero get engaged. Don John plots to disgrace Hero. Benedick is tricked into thinking that Beatrice is in love with him.

**Act 3:** Beatrice is tricked into thinking that Benedick is in love with her. Don John tells Claudio that Hero is unfaithful. The Watch arrest Conrad and Borachio.

**Acts 4:** Claudio accuses Hero of being unfaithful at their wedding – Hero collapses and is believed dead. Benedick and Beatrice declare their love for one another.

**Acts 5:** Don John's plot is discovered. After discovering that Hero was innocent, Claudio grieves and agrees to marry Leonato's 'niece'. Hero and Claudio are reunited when it is revealed that she the 'niece'. Benedick and Beatrice agree to marry.