

Teacher Guide

Grades 9–12

# Much Ado About Nothing

William Shakespeare

NOVEL UNITS<sup>®</sup>



NEW WAYS TO TEACH READING,  
WRITING, & CRITICAL THINKING



## **Novel Units® Single-Classroom User Agreement for Non-Reproducible Material**

With the purchase of electronic materials (such as ebooks and print-on-demand teaching activities) from a Novel Units, Inc. (Novel Units) Web site, or that of a Novel Units authorized dealer's Web site, the customer (the purchaser or person for whom this product was purchased) is granted a single-classroom user license, which entitles the customer to use these materials for a single classroom (or home) only.

**Sharing the digital files or reproduction of any part of this publication in any way or by any means for additional classrooms (or homes), an entire school, or a school system; by for-profit institutions and tutoring centers; or for commercial sale is strictly prohibited.**

**Reproduction of any part of this Teacher Guide is strictly prohibited.**

Use of the materials for anything other than classroom instruction is a violation of Novel Units intellectual property rights. Novel Units retains full intellectual property rights on all proprietary products, and these rights extend to electronic editions of print books or materials, excerpts of print books or materials, and individual teaching activities offered for sale in digital format.

To obtain more information, or, if you would like to use Novel Units products for additional purposes not outlined in the single-classroom license (described above), please contact [customercare@ecslearningsystems.com](mailto:customercare@ecslearningsystems.com).

**[ebooks.ecslearningsystems.com](http://ebooks.ecslearningsystems.com)**

---

# MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

by  
William Shakespeare

## Teacher Guide

Written by  
Gloria Levine, M.A.

### Note

The text used to prepare this guide was the Signet Classic softcover published by the Penguin Group, edited by David L. Stevenson and Sylvan Barnet, ©1989. Line numbers may vary in other editions.

**Please note:** Please assess the appropriateness of this book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with your class.

---

ISBN 978-1-60878-374-8

### Copyright infringement is a violation of Federal Law.

© 2010 by Novel Units, Inc., Bulverde, Texas. All rights reserved. Reproduction of any part of this product is strictly prohibited. No part of this publication may be translated, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted or shared in any way or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without prior written permission from Novel Units, Inc. Reproduction of any part of this publication for multiple school terms, an entire school or for a school system, by for-profit institutions and tutoring centers, or for commercial sale is strictly prohibited.

Novel Units is a registered trademark of Novel Units, Inc.

Publisher Information  
For a complete catalog, contact—

Novel Units, Inc.  
P.O. Box 97  
Bulverde, TX 78163-0097

Web site: [novelunits.com](http://novelunits.com)

For more digital resources, visit:  
[ebooks.ecslarningsystems.com](http://ebooks.ecslarningsystems.com)

## Table of Contents

<b>Plot Summary .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>About the Author .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>The Globe Theatre.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Initiating Activities.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Vocabulary Activities.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Summaries, Vocabulary, Discussion Questions, Literary Analysis, Writing Ideas</b>	
Act One.....	11
Act Two.....	13
Act Three.....	17
Act Four .....	21
Act Five .....	23
<b>Post-reading Discussion Questions .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Post-reading Extension Activities.....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Assessment.....</b>	<b>37</b>

### Act I, Scene III

Jealous Don John (whose treason has been forgiven by his brother) plots with his followers Borachio and Conrade to make life difficult for Don Pedro. Borachio provides the ammunition when he informs Don John that he overheard Don Pedro tell his right-hand man, Claudio, that he would obtain Hero for Claudio.

#### Vocabulary

humor (17)	frame (24)	snicker (25)	carriage (27)
intelligence (42)	forward (54)	entertained (56)	sad (58)
sure (66)	prove (70)		

#### Discussion Questions

1. Why is Don John so bitter? (*He is jealous of his half-brother.*) Do you agree with his sentiment that you cannot be what you are—"I must be sad when I have cause..."?
2. If you were Don John's friend, how would you respond to his morose attitude? What does Conrade suggest? (*Don John should pretend to be evil to his brother and then take revenge when the time is ripe.*) Is that good advice?
3. How does Borachio offer to help Don John? (*After telling him of the planned marriage, Borachio agrees to help Don John "cross" his brother.*) Do you think Conrade is as loyal as he says ("To be damn'd my brother," line 67)? How did he obtain his information? Where else in this play and other Shakespearean plays have you seen conversations overheard from behind curtains, within closets, etc.?
4. **PROJECT DON:** What plot will Don John and his two buddies hatch?

#### Writing Activity

You were assigned to be Don John's prosecution officer after his showdown with his brother. Now you are worried about his attitude. Convince him with a list of steps you plan to take to help see that he stays out of trouble.

### Act II, Scene I

Leonato advises Hero to accept the proposal which is forthcoming from the prince. Beatrice, Hero's cousin and a confirmed bachelorette, rebuffs his advice by suggesting that Hero take her time and consider carefully. A masked Don Pedro enters and draws Hero aside. Meanwhile, a masked Antonio jests with one of Hero's maids, Ursula, and a masked Benedick teases her from teasing another maid, Margaret, to taunt Beatrice. He tells her of gossip he has heard, aligning her and she, assuming that Benedick started the gossip, shares some nasty things he has heard about Benedick. Pretending to mistake Claudio for Benedick, Don John tries to set trouble by telling "Benedick" that Don Pedro is wooing Hero for himself and asking "Benedick" to persuade him for her, as she is not his equal. Naive Claudio falls for the trap briefly—"Friendship is constant in all other things/Save in the office and affairs of love...Farewell therefore Hero." and Benedick confirms Claudio's fears—"the Prince hath

## Graphic Organizers—Attribute Web

**Directions:** Select a character from the book to tell about using the blocks below.

Who is the character?			
What did the character do?		Why does/he do it?	
Why is the character's name well chosen?	What is the nature of the character's actions? (active, passive, important, insignificant, secondary)	What is the significance of the book's time and place to the character?	
What is unusual or important about the character?	How does the character change in the story?	Does the character remind you of another character from another book? Who?	Do you know anyone similar to the character?