

Student Packet

Grades 9–12

Much Ado About Nothing

William Shakespeare

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MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

by
William Shakespeare

Student Packet

Written by
Gloria Levine, M. A.

Contains masters for:

- 2 Prereading Activities
- 1 Study Guide (4 pages)
- 4 Vocabulary Activities
- 2 Literary Analysis Activities
- 2 Critical Thinking Activities
- 2 Writing Activities
- 1 Crossword Puzzle (Review Activity)
- 2 Comprehension Quizzes (two levels)*
- 2 Unit Exams (two levels)*
- Detailed Answer Key

PLUS

**Level 2 is more difficult than Level 1.*

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. If other editions are used, line numbers may vary.

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

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Name _____

Act IV, Scene ii

1. Cite the lines in which Borachio and Conrade deny that they are villains.
2. What does Dogberry keep insisting be written down about him?
3. **Prediction:** How will Don John react when he learns of Borachio's confession?

Act V, Scene i

1. Cite a line in which Leonato accuses Claudio of slandering Hero.
2. What news does Benedick give Don Pedro about Don John?
3. How does Claudio respond when Benedick challenges him?
4. How does Claudio respond when he hears the prisoners' confession?
5. What promise does Claudio make to Leonato?

Act V, Scene ii

1. "Marry, I cannot show it in mine" (line 36). What is Benedick trying to do?
2. How does Beatrice respond when Benedick asks her to marry him?
3. What news does Ursula bring?

Act V, Scene iii

1. Where does Claudio read the words "Done to death by slanderous tongues" (line 3)?
2. What is the song (lines 12-21) about?

Act V, Scene iv

1. When does Claudio realize that Hero is still alive?
2. What do both Benedick and Beatrice answer when asked, "Do not you love me"?
3. Why do Claudio and Hero both show letters they have in their possession?
4. What does Benedick propose to do "ere we are married"? (line 118)
5. What is the messenger's news about Don John?

Name _____

squarer	canker	cinquepace	conveyance	blazon
cozened	doffed	misprizing	truant	civet
codpiece	qualm	Comfect	coxcomb	beshrew
woodcock	Jacks	rheum		

I. Fill in the blanks, using words from the vocabulary list above. (Refer to the text of the play, if you need to.)

- “I’ faith, lady, I think your _____ to be true; though I will be sworn, if he be so, his conceit is false.” (2.1.23)
- “Nay, ’a rubs himself with _____. Can you smell him out by this?” (3.2.45)
- “Question: why, an hour in clamour and a quarrel in _____.” (5.2.82)
- “I had rather be a _____ in a hedge than a rose in his hand.” (1.3.25)
- “...wooing, wedding, and merriment is as a Scotch jig, a measure, and a _____.” (2.1.73)
- “...he hath bid me to carve a calf’s head and a capon; the which I do not carve most curiously, say my wife’s naught. Shall I not find a _____ too?” (5.1.156)
- “Is there no young _____ now that will make a voyage with him to the devil?” (1.1.10)
- “Surely, a princely testimony, a goodly count, Count _____; a sweet gallant surely!” (4.1.314)

II. Match the vocabulary words with their definitions.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| _____ 1. willow tree | _____ 5. lively dance |
| _____ 2. sugar candy | _____ 6. brawler |
| _____ 3. description | _____ 7. perfume |
| _____ 4. stupid bird | _____ 8. tears |

III. On the back of this paper, number from 1 to 8.

- Identify the speaker and the person addressed in each statement (see I, above).
- Then paraphrase the statement (put the statement in your own words).
- Finally, explain the context of the statement. (What caused the speaker to say this?)

Name _____

13. [After sexton asks which are the *malefactors*] "Marry, that am I and my partner."
 14. "O villain! thou wilt be condemned into everlasting *redemption* for this."
 15. "Come, let them be *opinioned*."
 16. "Dost thou not *suspect* my place? dost thou not *suspect* my years?"
 17. "No, thou villain, thou art full of *piety*."
 18. "Marry, sir, they have committed false report; moreover, they have spoken untruths: *secondarily*, they are slanders; *sixth* and *lastly*, they have *bearded* a lady."
- C. Refer to newspapers and magazines and listen to radio/TV for other examples of malapropisms (including spoonerisms) like those below.

Malapropism	Intended phrase	Source