

English test

En

KEY STAGE

3

LEVELS

4–7

2005

Shakespeare paper: *Much Ado About Nothing*

Please read this page, but do not open the booklet until your teacher tells you to start.

Write your name, the name of your school and the title of the play you have studied on the cover of your answer booklet.

This booklet contains one task which assesses your reading and understanding of *Much Ado About Nothing* and has 18 marks.

You have **45 minutes** to complete this task.

Much Ado About Nothing

Act 1 Scene 1, lines 119 to 182

Act 2 Scene 3, lines 181 to 213

What do you learn about Benedick's attitudes to love and marriage in these extracts?

Support your ideas by referring to both of the extracts which are printed on the following pages.

18 marks

Much Ado About Nothing

Act 1 Scene 1, lines 119 to 182

In this extract, Claudio tells Benedick that he loves Hero, and then Benedick tells Don Pedro.

CLAUDIO	Benedick, didst thou note the daughter of Signor Leonato?	
BENEDICK	I noted her not, but I looked on her.	120
CLAUDIO	Is she not a modest young lady?	
BENEDICK	Do you question me as an honest man should do, for my simple true judgement? Or would you have me speak after my custom, as being a professed tyrant to their sex?	
CLAUDIO	No, I pray thee speak in sober judgement.	125
BENEDICK	Why i'faith, methinks she's too low for a high praise, too brown for a fair praise, and too little for a great praise. Only this commendation I can afford her, that were she other than she is, she were unhandsome, and being no other, but as she is – I do not like her.	130
CLAUDIO	Thou thinkest I am in sport. I pray thee, tell me truly how thou lik'st her?	
BENEDICK	Would you buy her, that you enquire after her?	
CLAUDIO	Can the world buy such a jewel?	
BENEDICK	Yea, and a case to put it into. But speak you this with a sad brow? Or do you play the flouting Jack, to tell us Cupid is a good hare-finder, and Vulcan a rare carpenter? Come, in what key shall a man take you, to go in the song?	135
CLAUDIO	In mine eye, she is the sweetest lady that ever I looked on.	
BENEDICK	I can see yet without spectacles, and I see no such matter. There's her cousin, and she were not possessed with a fury, exceeds her as much in beauty as the first of May doth the last of December. But I hope you have no intent to turn husband, have you?	140
CLAUDIO	I would scarce trust myself, though I had sworn the contrary, if Hero would be my wife.	145

Turn over

BENEDICK Is't come to this? In faith, hath not the world one man, but he will wear his cap with suspicion? Shall I never see a bachelor of three score again? Go to, i'faith, and thou wilt needs thrust thy neck into a yoke, wear the print of it, and sigh away Sundays. Look, Don Pedro is returned to seek you. 150

Enter DON PEDRO

DON PEDRO What secret hath held you here, that you followed not to Leonato's?

BENEDICK I would your grace would constrain me to tell.

DON PEDRO I charge thee on thy allegiance.

BENEDICK You hear, Count Claudio, I can be secret as a dumb man – I would have you think so. But on my allegiance (mark you this, on my allegiance) he is in love. With who? Now that is your grace's part: mark how short his answer is. With Hero, Leonato's short daughter. 155

CLAUDIO If this were so, so were it uttered.

BENEDICK Like the old tale, my lord: 'It is not so, nor 'twas not so, but indeed, God forbid it should be so.' 160

CLAUDIO If my passion change not shortly, God forbid it should be otherwise.

DON PEDRO Amen, if you love her, for the lady is very well worthy.

CLAUDIO You speak this to fetch me in, my lord. 165

DON PEDRO By my troth, I speak my thought.

CLAUDIO And in faith, my lord, I spoke mine.

BENEDICK And by my two faiths and troths, my lord, I spoke mine.

CLAUDIO That I love her, I feel.

DON PEDRO That she is worthy, I know. 170

BENEDICK That I neither feel how she should be loved, nor know how she should be worthy, is the opinion that fire cannot melt out of me: I will die in it at the stake.

DON PEDRO Thou wast ever an obstinate heretic in the despite of beauty.

CLAUDIO And never could maintain his part, but in the force of his will. 175

BEATRICE Yea, just so much as you may take upon a knife's point, and
choke a daw withal: you have no stomach, signor, fare you well. *Exit*

BENEDICK Ha, against my will I am sent to bid you come in to dinner:
there's a double meaning in that: I took no more pains for those
thanks than you take pains to thank me: that's as much as to say, any 210
pains that I take for you is as easy as thanks: if I do not take pity of
her I am a villain, if I do not love her I am a Jew, I will go get her
picture. *Exit*

END OF TEST

