

Much Ado About Nothing: Plot Pre-Reading Activity

A younger brother is jealous of his older brother, and tries to cause him problems

Plays from Shakespeare's Time

How different is Much Ado from a modern sitcom?

Both

A woman is told by her father that she must marry someone.

Modern Plays

A policeman messes up an investigation because he is stupid.

A woman hides the fact that she fancies someone by making jokes about him.

Much Ado About Nothing: Plot Pre-Reading Activity

Devised by Nora Ward at Nottingham Bluecoat School. She used this activity to introduce the class to plot elements in Much Ado, spark interest in the story before facing the language, and to follow a lesson on the differences between theatres in Shakespeare's time and today.

How it works:

Cut up the plot cards and enlarge the Venn diagram to A3 if groups are larger than two. In pairs or groups of four, pupils to choose a plot card and discuss where it best goes on the diagram. They need to come up with a consensus, and a reason for their choice. More able students were given blank cards to annotate with their reasons.

You can extend/change this activity to having the students move the cards into piles of stories they would find interesting and not interesting.

After the groups have finished, groups feed back some of their choices to the rest of the class, and the teacher then tells them that all of the plot ideas they have looked at take place in Much Ado.

The webaddress for this activity is:

<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/muchadaplot.pdf>

Last updated 21st April 2021

Our collaborative talk for learning activities are designed to:

...build on prior knowledge.

...move from concrete to abstract thinking.

...ensure everyone works with everyone else.

...extend social language into curriculum language.

...provide motivating ways to go over the same topic more than once.

It's empowering to talk an idea through before you write about it!

If you don't get the chance to talk something through with others, you won't be able to write about it later confidently!

If you can persuade students to do something simple and playful together they will later jointly attempt something more difficult and challenging.

Good for all pupils!

Vital for EAL pupils!

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

Project Director: Stuart Scott

We support a network of teaching professionals to develop and disseminate accessible talk-for-learning activities in all subject areas and for all ages.

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Website: <http://www.collaborativelearning.org>

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Plots from plays- When were they written?



Plays from Shakespeare's
Time

Both

Modern Plays

A man thinks his best mate fancies the same girl as him.

A younger brother is jealous of his older brother, and tries to cause him problems.

A group of friends goes to a costume party.

A woman is told by her father that she must marry someone.

A woman fakes her own death when she is accused of being promiscuous.

A woman hides the fact that she fancies someone by making jokes about him.

A group of friends trick a couple into admitting they fancy each other.

A policeman messes up an investigation because he is stupid.

A man challenges someone to a fight for being mean to a girl.