

# Much Ado about Nothing: plot and character relationships

	Claudio	Benedick	Beatrice	Hero	Don John	Don Pedro
Claudio	X					
Benedick		X				
Beatrice			X			
Hero				X		
Don John					X	
Don Pedro						X

Daughter of Leonato, Governor of Messina.

Tells Claudio that Don Pedro really loves Hero.

A prince. Has been fighting wars in Italy.

Falls in love with Claudio at first sight.

Before the masked ball she says she will never marry.

Beatrice asks him to fight Claudio.

# Much Ado about Nothing - activities on the plot and character relationships

Devised by Louise Keeton and Alison Fisher from Bury LEA at the Rochdale Collaborative Shakespeare workshop in December 2006

The webaddress for this activity is: <http://www.collaborativelearning.org/muchadoplplotrelationships.pdf>  
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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.

Good for all pupils!  
Vital for EAL pupils!

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.

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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## Teacher's notes for Plot and Character Relationships Activities.

These activities consist of a set of cards, and a chart/table (which needs to be enlarged to A3) for students to complete. They are designed to help pupils get to grips with the complexities of the plot and relationships between characters.

### Activity One.

Pupils work in groups of four. Each group needs a set of cards. The cards tell the story of Much Ado about Nothing from the point of view of different characters.

The aim of the activity is to place the cards in the correct order for each character. Pupils could each choose a particular character and then work as a group on the remaining names. By the end of this activity they should have a good idea of the plot as it is reinforced through the different characters.

### Variations and follow up activities.

Weaker pupils would find it easier if characters are colour coded so they only need to order the information chronologically.

Pupils could write a diary or give a speech in character relating what has happened to them using the information on the chart.

### Activity Two.

This is an information transfer activity and enables the pupils to record the information from Activity One in their own words and in a different format. Again, the pupils need to be in a group of four.

Each pupil needs a copy of the character table. There could also be a central copy for the group to use. They then re-use the set of cards, placing the information in the correct box. Not all the cards are relevant and some characters do not have a relationship and so that box will be blank.

Once the cards have been placed on the appropriate square the pupils write in the information. As well as reinforcing the information about the plot, this activity highlights relationships between characters and demonstrates where there is little interaction.

# Much Ado about Nothing.

How do the different characters relate to each other?

Complete this chart/table using information from the cards that you used in the previous activity onto this chart

	Claudio	Benedick	Beatrice	Hero	Don John	Don Pedro
Claudio						
Benedick						
Beatrice						
Hero						
Don John						
Don Pedro						

## Much Ado About Nothing - plot cards

**Hero**

Daughter of Leonato,  
Governor of Messina.

Falls in love with Claudio  
at first sight.

Gets engaged to  
Claudio.

Helps Don Pedro to set up  
Beatrice and Benedick

Seems to die at her  
wedding, after being  
called impure.

At the end of the play,  
she is preparing to marry  
Claudio.

**Beatrice**

Leonato's niece. Hero's best  
friend. Angry with  
Benedick about what  
happened between them in  
the past.

Argues with Benedick  
when he returns from  
the battle.

Before the masked ball  
she says she will never  
marry.

Dances with Benedick  
and makes fun of him

Overhears Hero and Ursula  
discussing Benedick's love  
for her.

Falls in love with Benedick  
and agrees to marry him.

**Don Pedro**

A prince. Has been  
fighting wars in Italy.

Tells Claudio he will  
help him to marry  
Hero.

Dances with Hero at  
the masked ball.

# Much Ado About Nothing - plot cards

Plans to bring the two couples together.

He is tricked into believing he sees Hero with another man.

He accuses Hero of being impure at her wedding.

## Don John

Half brother of Don Pedro. They don't get on.

Finds out that Don Pedro wants to help Claudio marry Hero.

Tells Claudio that Don Pedro really loves Hero.

Plans to make Claudio believe that Hero is not a virgin.

Asks Borachio to visit Margaret in Hero's room to deceive Claudio and Don Pedro.

Is arrested and punished for his deceit

## Benedick

A Lord. Has been fighting wars in Italy. Angry with Beatrice.

Argues with Beatrice and makes fun of Claudio

Dances with Beatrice at the ball.

Overhears Don Pedro discussing Beatrice's love for Benedick.

Beatrice asks him to fight Claudio.

Agrees to marry Beatrice

# Much Ado About Nothing

## Claudio

Has been fighting wars in Italy. Serves Don Pedro as an officer.

Falls in love with Hero at first sight. Asks Don Pedro to help him to marry her.

Becomes engaged to Hero even though Don John has tried to make him believe that Don Pedro loves Hero.

Tricked into believing he sees Hero with another man.

At their wedding he accuses Hero of being impure.

Finds out that Hero is not dead, and they are again engaged.