

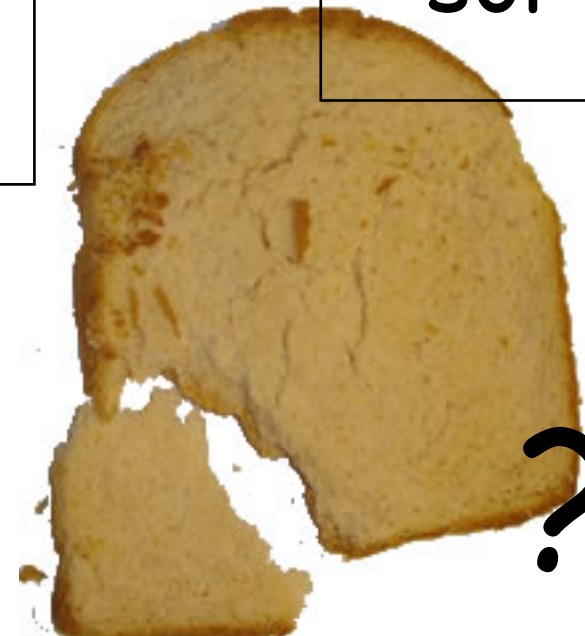
Much Ado Word Detectives

How many gentlemen have you lost in the action?
But few of any sort, and none of name.

?

..spare not to tell him that he hath wronged his
honour in marrying the renowned Claudio,....,to a
contaminated stale, such a one as Hero.

sort



stale

Much Ado Word Detectives

This and the other activities around the text of Much Ado demonstrate very clearly that collaborative learning is not about simplifying tasks, but about making difficult work more cooperative and playful. I am assuming that the shape and themes of the play will be covered by the excellent resources already available (e.g. NATE and English and Media Centre materials). Now that this play is often chosen for work at Key Stage 3, teachers will no doubt be wondering how to clarify the text. The play presents more difficulties than most at word level and particularly in the prose passages. I suspect it might be the play with the largest number of familiar words used in unfamiliar ways although Love's Labours Lost might be a strong contender. This activity tries to provide a way into word study that could be used at all phases and by all students by encouraging cooperative talk around modern meanings, and coaxing students into making intelligent guesses as to what Shakespeare meant. It is in effect an alternative approach to the glossary - text - dictionary work which I remember slogging through at A level and beyond. The idea here is to first help pupils to focus on their understanding of what the word means in modern parlance (a good opportunity for collaborative talk), and then have a collaborative go at understanding the word in a Shakespearean context. You could provide dictionaries and the text of the play to encourage them to find their way around the text and look up line numbers. If you are working at KS3, each pair could be given no more than five or six words and quotes, so that when they feed back to the other pair and subsequently to the rest of the class there will be only a few experts in the class for the words they have studied. The words and quotes in the activity are not complete so if anyone else has wants to work on more please send them to me for inclusion.

The wabaddress for this activity is:

<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/muchadoworddetectives.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!

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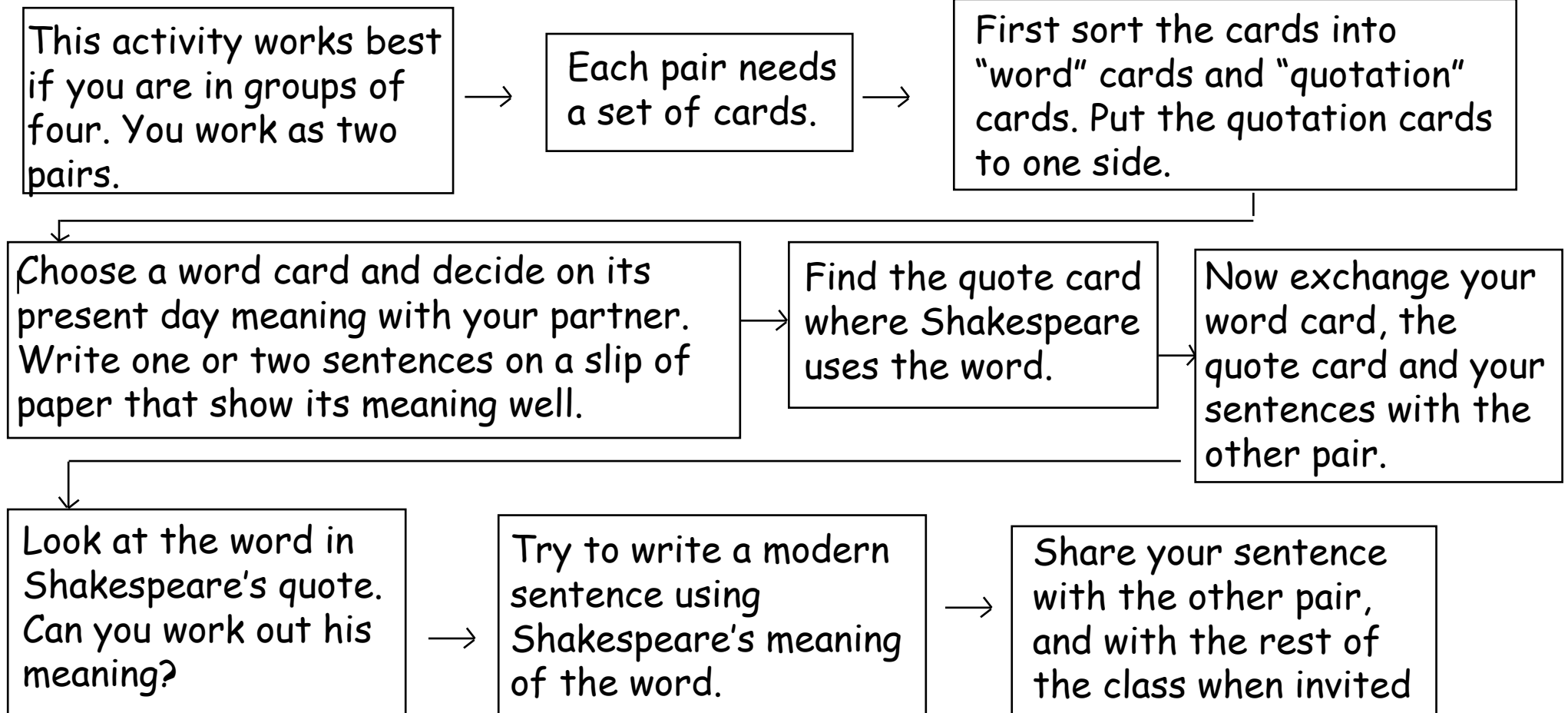
If you can persuade students to do something simple and playful together they will later jointly attempt something more difficult and challenging.

Much Ado Word Detectives

Introduction

Words work hard and carry a lot of meanings. The words stay around for us to use, but the meanings change over the years. Much Ado About Nothing contains a large number of words that carry disappeared meanings. This activity turns you into word detectives.

Instructions



Much Ado Word Detectives - words and quotes

<p>sort</p>	<p>How many gentlemen have you lost in the action? But few of any sort, and none of name. Act One, Scene One Line 5</p>	<p>measure</p>	<p>L: Did he break out into tears. Messenger: In great measure.. Act One, Scene One Line 23</p>
<p>badge</p>	<p>I have already delivered him letters, and there appears much joy in him, even so much that joy could not show itself modest enough without a badge of bitterness. Act One, Scene One Line 20</p>	<p>guarded</p>	<p>The body of your discourse is sometime guarded with fragments, and the guards are but slightly basted on neither. Act One, Scene One Line 266</p>
<p>bills</p>	<p>He set up his bills here in Messina and challenged Cupid at the flight; and my uncle's fool, reading the challenge, subscribed for Cupid and challenged him at the bird bolt. Act One, Scene One Line 36</p>	<p>break</p>	<p>...if he found her accordant, he meant to take the present time by the top, and instantly break with you of it. Act One, Scene Two Line 13</p>
<p>flight</p>	<p>He set up his bills here in Messina and challenged Cupid at the flight; and my uncle's fool, reading the challenge, subscribed for Cupid and challenged him at the bird bolt. Act One, Scene One Line 37</p>	<p>top</p>	<p>...if he found her accordant, he meant to take the present time by the top, and instantly break with you of it. Act One, Scene Two Line 13</p>
<p>difference</p>	<p>In our last conflict, four of his five wits went halting off, and now is the whole man governed with one, so that if he have wit enough to keep himself warm, let him bear it for a difference between himself and his horse..... Act One, Scene One Line 48</p>	<p>wit</p>	<p>Hath the fellow any wit that told you this? Act One, Scene Two Line 15</p>
<p>block</p>	<p>He wears his faith but as the fashion of his hat, it every changes with the next block. Act One, Scene One Line 72</p>	<p>carriage</p>	<p>I had rather be a canker in the hedge than a rose in his grace, and it better fits my blood to be disdained of all than to fashion a carriage to rob love from any. Act One, Scene Three Line 27</p>
<p>repair</p>	<p>In the meantime good, good Signor Benedick, repair to Leonato's,.... Act One, Scene One Line 256</p>	<p>stomach</p>	<p>I must be sad when I have cause, and smile at no man's jests; eat when I have stomach,..... Act One, Scene Three Line 14</p>

Much Ado Word Detectives - words and quotes

books	I see, lady, the gentleman is not in your books. Act One, Scene One Line 74	humour	I thank God and my cold blood, I am not of your humour for that; I would rather hear a dog bark at a crow, than a man swear he loves me. Act One, Scene One Line 125
shrewd	In my troth, niece, thou wilt never get thee a husband, if thou be so shrewd of thy tongue. Act Two, Scene One Line 17	light on	You may light on a husband that hath no beard. Act Two, Scene One Line 28
kind	If the prince do solicit you in that kind, you know your answer. Act Two, Scene One Line 59	apprehend	Cousin, you apprehend passing shrewdly. Act Two, Scene One Line 71
passing	Cousin, you apprehend passing shrewdly Act Two, Scene One Line 71	shrewdly	Cousin, you apprehend passing shrewdly Act Two, Scene One Line 71
banquet	Come, let us to the banquet. Act Two, Scene One Line 156	mark	...I stood like a man at a mark, with a whole army shooting at me. Act Two, Scene One Line 226
conjure	I would to God some scholar would conjure her, for certainly while she is here a man may live as quiet in hell as in a sanctuary,.... Act Two, Scene One Line 237	queasy	...in despite of his quick wit and his queasy stomach, he shall fall in love with Beatrice. Act Two, Scene Two Line 355
drift	Go in with me and I will tell you my drift. Act Two, Scene One Line 358	temper	The poison of that lies in you to temper. Act Two, Scene Two Line 19

Much Ado Word Detectives - words and quotes

<p>stale</p>	<p>..spare not to tell him that he hath wronged his honour in marrying the renowned Claudio,.....,to a contaminated stale, such a one as Hero. Act Two, Scene Two Line 23</p>	<p>shift</p>	<p>No, no, faith; thou sing'st well enough for a shift Act Two, Scene Three Line 79</p>
<p>stalk</p>	<p>O ay, stalk on, stalk on, the fowl sits. Act Two, Scene Three Line 94</p>	<p>gull</p>	<p>I should think this is a gull, but that the white bearded fellow speaks it. Act Two, Scene Three Line 119</p>
<p>tender</p>	<p>If she should make tender of her love, 'tis very possible he'll scorn it Act Two, Scene Three Line 175</p>	<p>proper</p>	<p>He is a very proper man. Act Two, Scene Three Line 178</p>
<p>sadly</p>	<p>This can be no trick. The conference was sadly borne; they have the truth of it from Hero. Act Two, Scene Three Line 214</p>	<p>bent</p>	<p>It seems her affections have their full bent. Love me? Why, it must be requited. Act Two, Scene Three Line 216</p>
<p>luxurious</p>	<p>She knows the heat of a luxurious bed. Her blush is guiltiness, not modesty. Act Four, Scene One Line 39</p>	<p>approved</p>	<p>Not to be married, not to knit my soul With an approved wanton. Act Four, Scene One Line 43</p>
<p>tale</p>	<p>'Fore God, they are both in a tale. Act Four, Scene Two Line 39</p>	<p>naughty</p>	<p>Thou naughty varlet! Act Four, Scene Two Line 74</p>