

Much Ado About Nothing

by William Shakespeare

Approved for use in Grade 10 English

Summary of the Work: "Much Ado About Nothing is a comedic play by William Shakespeare about misunderstandings, love and deception. Benedick, Claudio and Don Pedro arrive at Leonato's house in Messina. Beatrice and Benedick bicker with each other and Claudio, a soldier, falls in love with Leonato's daughter, Hero. Don John, who is Don Pedro's evil half-brother, tricks Claudio into believing that he has seen Hero being unfaithful. Meanwhile, Don Pedro and others plot to bring Benedick and Beatrice together. Claudio accuses Hero of infidelity and refuses to marry her. Leonato is persuaded to pretend that she is dead. Hero's innocence is proven and Claudio repents. He agrees to accept Antonio's daughter in marriage and she turns out to be Hero after all! The trick to make Benedick and Beatrice fall in love succeeds and he proposes to her at the end of the play" (BBC 2025).	Rationale: "One of Shakespeare's enduring legacies lies in his profound understanding and portrayal of the complexities of human nature. Through his characters and their intricate relationships, Shakespeare explores the depths of human emotions, motivations, and moral dilemmas. Students, as they study these characters, gain insights into the universal aspects of the human experience. The Bard's keen observations of human behavior serve as a mirror reflecting the intricacies of their own lives, fostering empathy and a nuanced understanding of the human condition. The exploration of love, ambition, jealousy, and power in Shakespeare's plays becomes a lens through which students can contemplate and analyze the complexities inherent in their own lives and the world around them" (Rose, Michael.Team. "Why We Study Shakespeare." Cincinnati Classical Academy, 1 Dec. 2023, www.cincyclassical.org/why-we-study-shakespeare/).
Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:	Noted Distinction: It was one of Shakespeare's best-known comedies, first published in the First Folio in 1623. It has since been published in many editions including Folger Shakespeare Library, Oxford World's Classics, Penguin Shakespeare, and Signet Classics. It has also been made into multiple major motion pictures.
Notes on the Text:	Connection to the Curriculum: This text challenges students to read and comprehend a classic Shakespearean work and adapt to Shakespearean language. It serves as a classic reference when students read other texts in the future, provides the experience of reading the drama genre, and encourages literary analysis skills when thinking critically about character development and various themes still very

	relevant in our modern world.
--	-------------------------------

Additional Connections:
