

Much Ado About Nothing

William Shakespeare

A Before Reading

- 1 Much Ado about nothing was written at the end of the sixteenth century. What was life like in England at that time? How was it similar or different from life in the 21st century? Think about the following topics:

Organisation of society	The position of women
ENTERTAINMENT	Marriage
Clothes	<i>Topics of conversation</i>

- 2 Much Ado About Nothing is a romantic comedy. Which of the following would you expect to find in the story?

Jealousy

Murder

Marriage

Arguments

Deception

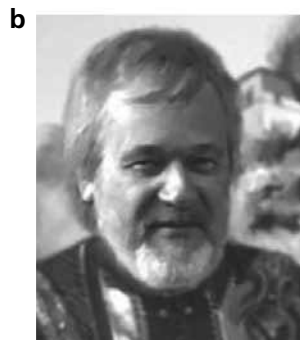
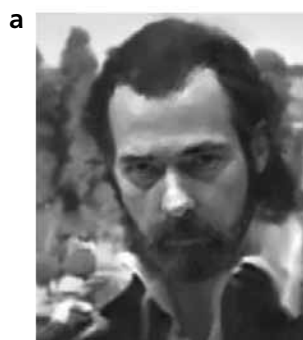
Gossip

Misunderstandings

Check your answers as you read.

B While Reading

- 3 Here are pictures of the main characters in the play. Match the pictures (a–g) with the names and relationships (1–7).



e



f



g



- 1 Don Pedro Prince of Aragon a
- 2 Claudio, soldier and count from Florence _____
- 3 Leonato, governor of Messina _____
- 4 Beatrice, Leonato's niece _____
- 5 Hero, Lenato's daughter _____
- 6 Don John, illegitimate brother of Don Pedro _____
- 7 Benedick, a lord from Padua _____

Check your answers on page 9.

- 4 Match the following sets of adjectives with the characters above.
 - a talkative, dramatic, witty _____
 - b jealous, sad, negative _____
 - c kind, generous, hospitable _____
 - d gentle, kind, innocent _____
 - e powerful, generous, polite _____
 - f brave, suspicious, pure _____
 - g witty, independent, competitive _____

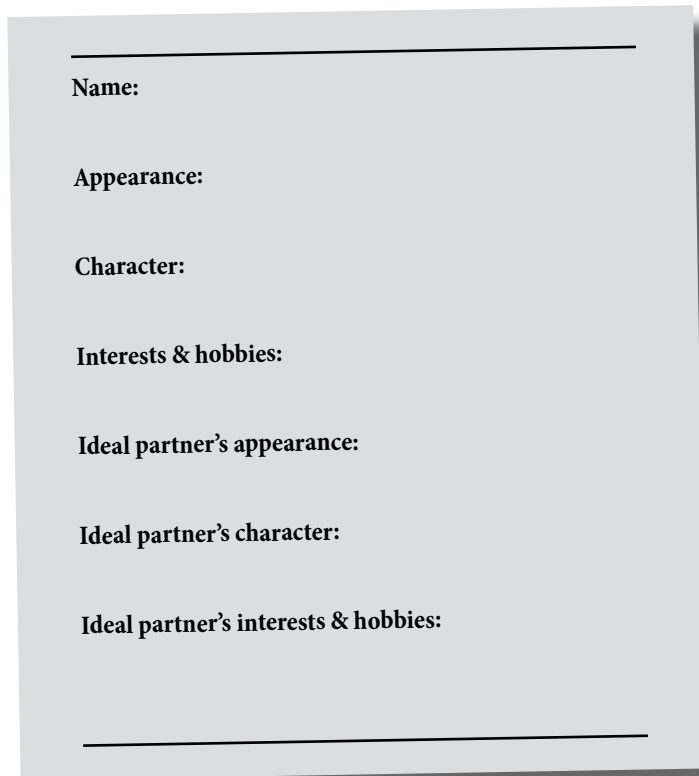
Check your answers as you read.

- 5 There are many misunderstandings in the play. Some are by mistake but some are on purpose. As you read, make notes under the headings in the table.

Who	Why	Result
1 Don John pretends to be Claudio.	<i>To make Hero fall in love with Claudio.</i>	<i>Hero falls in love with Claudio.</i>
2 Beatrice and Benedick have a conversation at a masked dance.		
3 Don John tells Claudio that Don Pedro loves Hero.		
4 Don Pedro, Claudio and Leonato cause Benedick to hear their conversation about Beatrice being in love with him.		
5 Hero and Ursula have a conversation about Benedick being in love with Beatrice.		
6 Don John takes Claudio to overhear Margaret and Borachio having a conversation.		
7 Leonato pretends that Hero is dead.		
8 Claudio thinks he doesn't know his future wife.		

C After Reading

- 6 Imagine you are Beatrice and that Benedick is your ideal partner. Complete the following 'Lonely Hearts' advertisement with a description of yourself and the characteristics you would like in a partner.



Name:

Appearance:

Character:

Interests & hobbies:

Ideal partner's appearance:

Ideal partner's character:

Ideal partner's interests & hobbies:

- 7
- a What qualities do you want in a partner?
 - b Are appearances important to you?
 - c Are men and women expected to marry in your country?
 - d Do you think marriage is a positive thing? Why/Why not?