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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation of society</th>
<th>The position of women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENTERTAINMENT</td>
<td>Marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes</td>
<td>Topics of conversation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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).

a b c d
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, Leonato’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.
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.

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

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?