

En

KEY STAGE

3

LEVELS

4-7

English test

Shakespeare paper: *Much Ado About Nothing*

Please read this page, but do not open the booklet until your teacher tells you to start.

Write your name, the name of your school and the title of the play you have studied on the cover of your answer booklet.

This booklet contains one task which assesses your reading and understanding of *Much Ado About Nothing* and has 18 marks.

You have **45 minutes** to complete this task.

2008

Much Ado About Nothing

Act 4 Scene 1, lines 251 to 325

Act 5 Scene 4, lines 72 to 125

In the first extract, Benedick has to choose between his loyalty to Claudio and his love for Beatrice; in the second, Beatrice and Benedick do not want to admit that they love each other.

How do these extracts explore the idea that loving someone is not easy?

Support your ideas by referring to both of the extracts which are printed on the following pages.

18 marks

Much Ado About Nothing

Act 4 Scene 1, lines 251 to 325

In this extract, Beatrice wants Benedick to stand up for Hero against Claudio.

| | | |
|----------|---|-----|
| BENEDICK | Lady Beatrice, have you wept all this while? | |
| BEATRICE | Yea, and I will weep a while longer. | |
| BENEDICK | I will not desire that. | |
| BEATRICE | You have no reason: I do it freely. | |
| BENEDICK | Surely I do believe your fair cousin is wronged. | 255 |
| BEATRICE | Ah, how much might the man deserve of me that would right her! | |
| BENEDICK | Is there any way to show such friendship? | |
| BEATRICE | A very even way, but no such friend. | |
| BENEDICK | May a man do it? | 260 |
| BEATRICE | It is a man's office, but not yours. | |
| BENEDICK | I do love nothing in the world so well as you. Is not that strange? | |
| BEATRICE | As strange as the thing I know not. It were as possible for me to say I loved nothing so well as you. But believe me not, and yet I lie not: I confess nothing, nor I deny nothing. I am sorry for my cousin. | 265 |
| BENEDICK | By my sword, Beatrice, thou lovest me. | |
| BEATRICE | Do not swear and eat it. | |
| BENEDICK | I will swear by it that you love me; and I will make him eat it that says I love not you. | 270 |
| BEATRICE | Will you not eat your word? | |
| BENEDICK | With no sauce that can be devised to it. I protest I love thee. | |

Turn over

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| BEATRICE | Why, then, God forgive me! | 275 |
| BENEDICK | What offence, sweet Beatrice? | |
| BEATRICE | You have stayed me in a happy hour. I was about to protest I loved <i>you</i> . | |
| BENEDICK | And do it with all thy heart. | |
| BEATRICE | I love you with so much of my heart that none is left to protest. | 280 |
| BENEDICK | Come, bid me do anything for thee. | |
| BEATRICE | Kill Claudio. | |
| BENEDICK | Ha! Not for the wide world. | |
| BEATRICE | You kill me to deny it. Farewell. | 285 |
| BENEDICK | Tarry, sweet Beatrice. | |
| BEATRICE | I am gone though I am here. There is no love in you. Nay, I pray you, let me go. | |
| BENEDICK | Beatrice – | |
| BEATRICE | In faith, I will go. | 290 |
| BENEDICK | We'll be friends first. | |
| BEATRICE | You dare easier be friends with me than fight with mine enemy. | |
| BENEDICK | Is Claudio thine enemy? | |
| BEATRICE | Is he not approved in the height a villain that hath slandered, scorned, dishonoured my kinswoman? O that I were a man! What, bear her in hand until they come to take hands, and then, with public accusation, uncovered slander, unmitigated rancour – O God, that I were a man! I would eat his heart in the market-place. | 295 300 |
| BENEDICK | Hear me, Beatrice – | |
| BEATRICE | Talk with a man out at a window! A proper saying! | |
| BENEDICK | Nay, but Beatrice – | |

| | | |
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| BEATRICE | Sweet Hero! She is wronged, she is slandered, she is undone. | 305 |
| BENEDICK | Beat – | |
| BEATRICE | Princes and counties! Surely, a princely testimony, a goodly count, Count Comfekt – a sweet gallant, surely! O that I were a man for his sake, or that I had any friend would be a man for my sake! But manhood is melted into curtsies, valour into compliment; and men are only turned into tongue, and trim ones too. He is now as valiant as Hercules that only tells a lie and swears it. I cannot be a man with wishing: therefore I will die a woman with grieving. | 310 315 |
| BENEDICK | Tarry, good Beatrice. By this hand, I love thee. | |
| BEATRICE | Use it for my love some other way than swearing by it. | |
| BENEDICK | Think you in your soul the Count Claudio hath wronged Hero? | |
| BEATRICE | Yea, as sure as I have a thought or a soul. | 320 |
| BENEDICK | Enough: I am engaged. I will challenge him. I will kiss your hand, and so I leave you. By this hand, Claudio shall render me a dear account. As you hear of me, so think of me. Go, comfort your cousin: I must say she is dead; and so, farewell. | 325 |

Exeunt.

Act 5 Scene 4, lines 72 to 125

In this extract, Benedick and Beatrice will not admit that they love each other, until their love sonnets prove that they do.

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| BENEDICK | Soft and fair, Friar. Which is Beatrice? |
| BEATRICE | <i>(Unmasking)</i> I answer to that name. What is your will? |
| BENEDICK | Do not you love me? |
| BEATRICE | Why no – no more than reason. |

Turn over

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| BENEDICK | Why, then your uncle and the Prince and Claudio Have been deceived. They swore you did. | 75 |
| BEATRICE | Do not you love me? | |
| BENEDICK | Troth, no – no more than reason. | |
| BEATRICE | Why, then my cousin, Margaret and Ursula Are much deceived: for they did swear you did. | |
| BENEDICK | They swore that you were almost sick for me. | 80 |
| BEATRICE | They swore that you were well-nigh dead for me. | |
| BENEDICK | 'Tis no such matter. Then you do not love me? | |
| BEATRICE | No, truly, but in friendly recompense. | |
| LEONATO | Come, cousin, I am sure you love the gentleman. | |
| CLAUDIO | And I'll be sworn upon't that he loves her; For here's a paper written in his hand, A halting sonnet of his own pure brain, Fashioned to Beatrice. | 85 |
| HERO | And here's another, Writ in my cousin's hand, stolen from her pocket, Containing her affection unto Benedick. | 90 |
| BENEDICK | A miracle! Here's our own hands against our hearts. Come, I will have thee: but, by this light, I take thee for pity. | |
| BEATRICE | I would not deny you; but, by this good day, I yield upon great persuasion – and partly to save your life, for I was told you were in a consumption. | 95 |
| BENEDICK | Peace! I will stop your mouth. (<i>Kissing her</i>) | |
| DON PEDRO | How dost thou, Benedick the married man? | |

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|---------------------------|---|------------|
| BENEDICK | I'll tell thee what, Prince. A college of wit-crackers cannot flout me out of my humour. Dost thou think I care for a satire or an epigram? No: if a man will be beaten with brains, 'a shall wear nothing handsome about him. In brief, since I do purpose to marry, I will think nothing to any purpose that the world can say against it. And therefore never flout at me for what I have said against it – for man is a giddy thing, and this is my conclusion. For thy part, Claudio, I did think to have beaten thee: but in that thou art like to be my kinsman, live unbruised, and love my cousin. | 100 105 |
| CLAUDIO | I had well hoped, thou wouldst have denied Beatrice, that I might have cudgelled thee out of thy single life, to make thee a double-dealer – which out of question thou wilt be, if my cousin do not look exceeding narrowly to thee. | 110 |
| BENEDICK | Come, come, we are friends. Let's have a dance ere we are married, that we may lighten our own hearts and our wives' heels. | 115 |
| LEONATO | We'll have dancing afterward. | |
| BENEDICK | First, of my word! Therefore play, music. Prince, thou art sad: get thee a wife, get thee a wife! There is no staff more reverend than one tipped with horn. | 120 |
| <i>Enter a MESSENGER.</i> | | |
| MESSENGER | My lord, your brother John is ta'en in flight, And brought with armed men back to Messina. | |
| BENEDICK | Think not on him till tomorrow. I'll devise thee brave punishments for him. Strike up, pipers! | 125 |

Dance.

Exeunt.

END OF TEST

