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.
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.
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?
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.
BENEDICK By my sword, Beatrice, thou loveth 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.
BEATRICE Will you not eat your word?
BENEDICK With no sauce that can be devised to it. I protest I love thee.
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 you.

BENEDICK And do it with all thy heart.

BEATRICE I love you with so much of my heart that none is left to protest.

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. 300

BENEDICK Hear me, Beatrice –

BEATRICE Talk with a man out at a window! A proper saying!

BENEDICK Nay, but Beatrice –
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 Comfect – 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. 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.

BENEDICK
Soft and fair, Friar. Which is Beatrice?
BEATRICE
(Unmasking) I answer to that name. What is your will?
BENEDICK
Do not you love me?
BEATRICE
Why no – no more than reason.
BENEDICK Why, then your uncle and the Prince and Claudio
Have been deceived. They swore you did.

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.

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.

HERO And here's another,
Writ in my cousin's hand, stolen from her pocket,
Containing her affection unto Benedick.

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.

BENEDICK Peace! I will stop your mouth. (Kissing her)

DON PEDRO How dost thou, Benedick the married man?
**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

*Enter a MESSENGER.*

**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!

*Enter MESSENGER.*

_Dance._

_Exeunt._

**END OF TEST**