

Year 8 'Much Ado About Nothing' Knowledge Organiser

Assessments:		Key Characters	Context	Themes		Key Words	
1. How does the relationship change between Benedick and Beatrice between Act 1 and Act 4? 2. A formal presentation on a character in the play.		Benedick: a lord, a soldier and Don Pedro's friend. Known for his quick-wit. He is in love with Beatrice but doesn't realise it. Beatrice: Leonato's niece. Quick-witted and intelligent. She is in love with Benedick but doesn't realise it. Claudio: a lord, a soldier and Don Pedro's friend. Young and naïve. Falls in love with Hero. Hero: Leonato's daughter. Young and naïve. Falls in love with Claudio and is accused of being unfaithful.	Philosophy: Everyone believed that they had his or her place in life. This hierarchy was known as the chain of being. There was a strong social hierarchy and the audience would have understood that Don Pedro would have been a powerful man. Women were seen as inferior and had a lower social status.	Honour: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don John feels that he is not viewed honourably because of his status as a 'bastard'. Hero is publically shamed and her honour is questioned. Claudio and Don Pedro take Hero's apparent unfaithfulness as a slur on their honour. Leonato is furious when he believes Hero has dishonoured the family – it is the ultimate disgrace. Benedick promises Beatrice that he will do anything to help her. He has to honour this promise and has to challenge Claudio. 	Deception: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characters 'deceive' each other at the masked ball by pretending to be different people. Don Jon deceives Claudio in an attempt to discredit Don Pedro. Beatrice and Benedick are deceived by their friends into thinking they have confessed their love for each other. Claudio falsely accuses Hero of deceiving him. The Friar advises Hero to deceive Claudio and Don Pedro by pretending to be dead. 	antagonist betray chastity deception disguise disgrace faithful friendship gender hero hiding honour humiliation humour illegitimate intelligence immoral language love loyalty moral patriarchal power protagonist romance sexuality shame soliloquy status unfaithful usurp wit word-play villain	
Brief Plot Summary							
Act 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don Pedro, Claudio and Benedick arrive in Messina Claudio and Hero fall in love. Benedick and Beatrice tease each other. Don John plans revenge on his brother. 		Don Pedro: Prince of Aragon. Don John: the half-brother of Don Pedro. He is resentful and angry because of his status. He plots to destroy the happiness of others.		Love: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beatrice and Benedick love each other but need help to realise it. Claudio and Hero fall in love at first sight – this a naïve and traditionally romantic view of love. However, Claudio is quick to shame Hero when he believes she is unfaithful. Leonato loves Hero but is quick to condemn her when he thinks she has been unfaithful. Beatrice's love for Hero is one of the strongest examples of love in the play – she never doubts Hero's innocence and fights to protect her. 	Gender: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Society's expectations of men and women are different. Men are allowed to be sexually promiscuous whereas women must be submissive and chaste. Hero is portrayed as the ideal stereotypical Elizabethan woman. She is modest, pure and is devastated by the insinuation that she has been unfaithful. Beatrice is feisty, opinionated and intelligent so is different to the stereotypical portrayal on an ideal Elizabethan woman. She feels constrained by the expectations of women. 	Key Quotations	
Act 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During a masked ball, Claudio and Hero get engaged. Don John plots to disgrace Hero. Benedick is tricked into thinking that Beatrice is in love with him. 		Leonato: Governor of Messina. Old and wise but easily swayed by the opinions of others – he believes that Hero has been unfaithful when she is first accused.		Religion: People were deeply religious. Belief in God and heaven and hell affected people's choice and the way they behaved.	Language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benedick and Beatrice revel in word-play. Claudio's harsh words to Hero at their wedding makes her physically ill. Dogberry continuously confuses words and phrases and demonstrates the comedic effect of language. 	"It is certain that I am loved of all ladies, only you excepted. And I would I could find it in my heart that I had not a hard heart, for truly I love none." Benedick Act 1, Scene 1 "I had rather hear my dog bark at a crow than a man swear he loves me" Beatrice, Act 1 Scene 1 "He is the Prince's jester, a very dull fool." Beatrice, Act 2, Scene 1 "I will be horribly in love with her." Benedick, Act 2, Scene 3	
Act 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beatrice is tricked into thinking that Benedick is in love with her. Don John tells Claudio that Hero is unfaithful. The Watch arrest Conrad and Borachio. 		Antonio: Leonato's brother. He provides a steadying influence.		Gender: It was a patriarchal society. Women were ruled by men and were expected to be submissive, sexually pure before marriage and meek. The idea that a woman could challenge a man was unheard of and would have shocked audiences. Sexual relationships before marriage were seen as a sin and socially unacceptable, particularly for women. Children conceived out of wedlock were illegitimate and were looked down upon by society. Illegitimate children were also known as 'bastards' (Don John is sometimes referred to as 'the Bastard') and were unable to inherit their father's wealth and	titles. Unfaithful women and women who had a sexual relationship before marriage (especially those of noble birth) compromised their position within the social hierarchy	Men were supposed to be strong, brave and masculine (to be called feminine was an insult). It was acceptable for men to be sexually experienced before marriage.	"I am not as I have been." Benedick, Act 3, Scene 2. "I stand dishonoured, that have gone about to link my dear friend to a common stale." Don Pedro, Act 4, Scene 1 "I do love nothing in the world so well as you. Is not that strange?" Benedick, Act 4, Scene 1 "She died, my lord, but whiles her slander lived." Leonato, Act 5, Scene 4.
Act 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claudio accuses Hero of being unfaithful at their wedding – Hero collapses and is believed dead. Benedick and Beatrice declare their love for one another. 		The Watch: lead by Dogberry. He is assisted by Verges and Sexton.					
Act 5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don John's plot is discovered. After discovering that Hero is innocent, Claudio grieves and agrees to marry Leonato's 'niece'. Hero and Claudio are reunited when it is revealed that she is the 'niece'. Benedick and Beatrice agree to marry. 		Conrad and Borachio: followers of Don John who help him to discredit Hero. Margaret: Hero's flirtatious serving lady who unwittingly helps in Don John's evil plan. Ursula: Hero's serving lady and friend. Friar Francis: the priest who is supposed to marry Claudio and Hero. He advises Hero to pretend to be dead.					
Language and Techniques Antithesis Dramatic irony Iambic pentameter Imagery Irony Metaphor Personification		Pun Repetition Rhyming couplets Semantic field Simile					



