

Much Ado About Nothing: Vocabulary and Study Guide

Act I

'twere	it were; it was
acquaint	inform; let someone know
be reconciled	come to terms with; make up
bestow	give; grant; show
betwixt	between
conceive	become pregnant; give birth
cross	make trouble for someone
didst	did
disdain	to feel disgust for something; to hate something
drowsy	sleepy
ere	before
exquisite	elegant; fashionable
hath	has
heir	one who will inherit wealth
hither	here
inquire	ask; find out
intelligence	news; information
ladyship	a way of addressing a woman of importance and rank
let us thither	let's get out of here; let's leave
liege	master; boss
mark	to pay attention to someone
merry	happy
note	notice
repair	go; return
reveling	celebrating; partying; having a good time
skirmish	fight; small battle
thine	yours
thither	there
withal	at once; immediately; this instant
woo	to pursue in a romantic way
your grace	a mark of respect

Act II

ay	yes
bate one's breath by my troth	to lessen the force of upon my word; my goodness
canst	can
chamber	room
county	count (as in Count Dracula)
ditties	songs
ducats	money of Italy
employment	task; job; duty
ere	before
exceeding	very
fair	beauty; beautiful
harpy	a fierce woman with a temper
herald	announcement; sign
hither	here
honour	entertain
in the interim	in the meantime
jester	joker
low-born	of a lower class
melancholy	sad; sadness
minister	provide; give
mirth	happiness; joy
obtain	to get
office	task; job; duty
revelers	party goers
tis	it is
torment	torture
virtuous	moral; good
waiting-gentlewoman	female servant
wit	intelligence; quick thinking
woolen	made of wool
Act III	
trothed	engaged (from betrothed)
frame	to make
scorn	ridicule; shame; embarrassment
adieu	french for "goodbye"
grief	sadness
break	end a friendship
bid	command; tell

knave	someone not to be trusted
ale-house	bar
vilely	in a evil way
amiable	friendly; pleasing
lechery	extreme immoral behavior
commonwealth	empire; nation
auspicious	suggesting a successful result/end
gaol	jail

Act IV

impediment	obstacle; problem
charge	command
wanton	slut
approved	proven
maid	virgin
grieved	sad
wherefore	why
ope	open
be-lied	to be lied about
mark	see; notice
lamented	mourned; cried about
prolonged	made longer
protest	confess
kinswoman	female relative/family-member
malefactors	criminals; wrong-doers
watch	watchmen
perjury	lie
to be bound	to be tied up

Act V

hastily	quickly; with haste
braggart	one who brags
milksop	sissy
incensed	to make someone do something
worthy	valuable; admirable
resemble	to look like (something/someone)
prayer	ask
seize upon	take
well-neigh	very nearly
piper	musician
yield	give up

Study Questions

Act I

1. Where are Don Pedro, Claudio, Benedick, and Don John returning from?
2. Where do Don Pedro, Claudio, Benedick, and Don John stay?
3. What does Beatrice promise to do with all the soldiers Benedick has killed?
4. Who is Benedick's close friend?
5. Who does Claudio fall in love with?
6. What does Don Pedro agree to do for Claudio?
7. What does Don John swear to do?

Put the following quotes in your own words.

8. I wonder that you will still be talking, Signior Benedick. Nobody marks you! (16)
9. Hath Leonato any son, my lord? (19)
10. I will acquaint my daughter withal! (19)

Act II

11. What kind of party does Leonato throw?
12. How does Don John first begin making trouble?
13. Explain how Claudio won Hero's heart.

14. What do Don Pedro, Leonato, and Claudio agree to do (28)?
15. How is Borachio going to make everyone believe that Hero loves him instead of Claudio?
16. List three qualities Benedick is looking for in a woman? (30)
17. How do Don Pedro, Leonato, and Claudio tell Benedick that Beatrice loves him?
18. Why does Leonato send Beatrice to call Benedick to dinner?

Put the following quotes in your own words.

19. Speak, cousin. Or if you cannot, stop his mouth with a kiss, and let not him speak neither. (26)
20. I was born to speak all mirth and no matter. (27)

Act III

21. What does Hero say about Beatrice's heart?
22. What is Beatrice's reaction when she hears Ursula and Hero talking about Benedick's love for her?
23. What does Don John tell Claudio about Hero?
24. How does Don John tell Claudio that he will prove what he said about Hero is true?
25. What are Dogberry's instructions to the watchmen?
26. What do the watchmen overhear?

Act IV

27. How does Claudio shock everyone at the wedding?

28. What does Hero do when Claudio renounces his love?
29. What does everyone think has happened to Hero when she faints?
30. Who believes Hero's side of the story?
31. What does the friar suggest everyone say about Hero while they're trying to figure out what's going on?
32. What does Beatrice ask Benedick to do?
33. What does Benedick eventually do regarding Beatrice's request?
34. What does Dogberry have the sexton do?
35. What does regret when the sexton leaves?

Act V

36. What do Antonio and Leonato threaten (and try) to do when they see Claudio?
37. What does Borachio do when he's brought before Leonato and the others?
38. What does Claudio agree to do in order to make peace with Leonato?
39. What does Benedick try to do to show his love for Beatrice?
40. What happens when Claudio goes to marry Hero's cousin?
41. How do Hero and Claudio finally stop Beatrice and Benedick from denying their love?