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
erere 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
withdraw 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 to lessen the force of by my troth
canst room
chamber count (as in Count Dracula)
cyaty songs
ditties money of Italy
ducats task; job; duty
employment 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 low-born
joker of a lower class
melancholy sad; sadness
minister provide; give
mirth happiness; joy
to get
tobler task; job; duty
tis it
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 ridicule; shame;
scorn embarrassment
adieu french for “goodbye”
grief sadness
break end a friendship
bid command; tell

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

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
pray ask
seize upon take
well-nigh 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?