

Much ado about nothing notes – act 1



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Much ado about nothing - ACT 1 * Character development: In act 1 of much ado about nothing many characters are introduced to the play, such as Leonato who is the governor of Messina who welcomes the Prince of Aragon also known as Don Pedro who then bring with them Claudio and Benedick to Messina who have just been fighting in the war, and both of them want to stay single. Hero and Beatrice are Leonato daughter and niece who look forward to seeing the prince's followers; both Hero and Beatrice are completely different to one another for example Hero is small and quiet whereas Beatrice is very loud and tall.

Finally there is Don John who is Don Pedro's brother and very evil and completely different to Don Pedro which is a reason why they do not get along, whose followers which assist him with mischief in this act at the party who are both Borachio and Conrad. There is some character development in Act 1, for example both Claudio and Benedick both say that they will stay single and not ever marry, whereas later when Claudio meets Hero it is love at first sight for him and his mood changes from friendly courtesy to serious discussion as he truly loves Hero.

There is not much character development in this scene, and this is because the characters have just been introduced and therefore have not had a chance to express their characteristics and personality towards one another. An example of not expressing their personality and feelings towards one another is when Benedick and Beatrice are constantly mocking one another and I think that they are not showing their true feelings and are hiding them by making fun out of each other. In the start of the play when the soldiers return from Messina Beatrice and Benedick exchange exaggerated insults,

Claudio tells Don Pedro he loves Beatrice and Benedick however says he will never marry. * On page 11 there is a long speech but there aren't that many in act 1 they are mostly short dialogues. It translates as follows: don't go over board The best gift I have the solution I can get her for you I will make her love you This is between Don Pedro and Claudio, Don Pedro is telling Claudio that he is going to tell her of Claudio's love for her and make her love him.

Maybe this because Claudio is of a shy personality so he doesn't trust himself or have the confidence to do it himself * Leonato is the governor of Messina * Hero and Beatrice are very different but they get along, hero is quite quiet and small whereas Beatrice is loud and tall. * Don Pedro and don john are brothers; they do not get along as they are very different. Don John is called bastard as he is illegitimate (parents weren't married) and therefore hasn't got the right fatherhood to become prince- he is jealous of Don Pedro. * Shakespeare uses stereotyping in the play (setting characters eg.

Villains, goodies ect...) * On pg5- Benedick's line 130- proves there is some history behind him and Beatrice because here he says " you always end with a jades trick, I know you of old". * Even though Beatrice and Benedick are constantly insulting each other they may not always mean what they say, Benedick on pg 6 line 175 says " exceeds her as much in beauty" so he thinks that she is beautiful, more beautiful than her cousin, which hints that maybe they are insulting each other only to hide their true feelings towards one another. In scene 2 Don John, Borachio and Conrad plan to break up the marriage between Claudio and hero-they are immediately recognised as the villains in this play. * On page 12 line 20- Leonato tells <https://assignbuster.com/much-ado-about-nothing-notes-act-1/>

hero it's Don Pedro that might propose even though it's Claudio who she loves, as we know Leonato is mistaken here, but that is what he tells her at first and even though she loves Claudio not Don Pedro she stays silent and says nothing.

This tells us more about her personality, she is so quiet, obedient and submissive that even when Leonato tells her to accept don Pedro's hand in marriage she says nothing * The play contains mostly disorder but it starts with order when the soldiers return from the war, so everyone is happy and joyful to see them return & as soon as Claudio and her lay eyes on each other they fall in love. However when Don John walks in the atmosphere changes and they all awkwardly fall silent.