

Act II- Stop & Think

Scene I:



BEATRICE
Will you not tell me who told you so?
BENEDICK
No, you shall pardon me.
BEATRICE
Nor will you not tell me who you are?
BENEDICK
Not now.
(2.1.101-104)



What is significant about this interaction between Beatrice and Benedick?

What type of literary element is Shakespeare using here?



CLAUDIO
How know you he loves her?
DON JOHN
I heard him swear his affection.
BORACHIO
So did I too, and he swore he would marry
her tonight.
DON JOHN
Come, let us to the banquet. (2.1.138-142)



Summarize this conversation:

What theme does this interaction reveal? Explain your reasoning.



Thus answer I in the name of Benedick, But hear these ill news with the ears of Claudio. 'Tis certain so, the Prince woos for himself. Friendship is constant in all other things Save in the office and affairs of love. Therefore all hearts in love use their own tongues. Let every eye negotiate for itself And trust no agent, for beauty is a witch Against whose charms faith melteth into blood. This is an accident of hourly proof, Which I mistrusted not. Farewell, therefore, Hero. (2.1. 143-153).



Who is speaking and what is he saying?



Scene II
DON JOHN

“Any bar, any cross, any impediment will be med'cinable to me. I am sick in displeasure to him, and whatsoever comes athwart his affection ranges evenly with mine. How canst thou cross this marriage?”



What does Don John mean by this statement?

Summarize the plan that he and Borachio devise:

Scene III



BENEDICK:

“I do much wonder that one man, seeing how much another man is a fool when he dedicates his behaviors to love, will, after he hath laughed at such shallow follies in others, become the argument of his own scorn by falling in love—” (2.3.8-14).



What is Benedick saying here?

How does this foreshadow Benedick's dynamic character?



BALTHASAR

Note this before my notes:

There's not a note of mine that's worth the noting. (2.3.54-55).



What figurative language is this an example of?



*Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more,
Men were deceivers ever,
One foot in sea and one on shore,
To one thing constant never.
Then sigh not so, but let them go,
And be you blithe and bonny,
Converting all your sounds of woe
Into Hey, nonny nonny.
Sing no more ditties, sing no mo
Of dumps so dull and heavy.
The fraud of men was ever so,
Since summer first was leavy.
Then sigh not so, but let them go
And be you blithe and bonny,
Converting all your sounds of woe
Into Hey, nonny nonny.*



What theme of *Much Ado About Nothing* does Balthasar's song address?

What is cacophony? Which lines from Balthasar's song use cacophony?

What is the rhyme scheme of Balthasar's song?

What overall argument is Shakespeare making through Balthasar's song?



LEONATO

O God! Counterfeit? There was never counterfeit of
passion came so near the life of passion as she discovers it.



Explain how the above quote represents motif.



BENEDICK

(aside) I should think this a gull but that the white-bearded fellow speaks it. Knavery cannot, sure, hide himself in such Reverence. (2.3.97-98).



What is an aside?

What is dramatic irony, and how is this an example of it?



BENEDICK

No! The world must be peopled. When I said I would die a bachelor, I did not think I should live till I were married. (2.3.244-246)



What is Benedick saying? How does this quote reveal that Benedick is a dynamic character?