

Much Ado About Nothing Character Descriptions

Beatrice- Lead

Leonato's niece and Hero's cousin. Beatrice is "a pleasant-spirited lady" with a very sharp tongue. She wages a "merry war" of wits against Benedick and often wins the battles. She is generous and loving, but, like Benedick, continually mocks other people with elaborately tooled jokes and puns. She is very cynical about love and society and everything that props it up, but she's very light hearted and likes to make fun

Benedick- Lead

An aristocratic soldier who has recently been fighting under, and a friend of Don Pedro and Claudio. Benedick is very witty, always making jokes and puns. He carries on a "merry war" of wits with Beatrice. He is the consummate bachelor, it's nothing against women but everything against marriage.

Claudio- Lead

A young soldier who has won great acclaim fighting under Don Pedro during the recent wars. Claudio falls in love with Hero upon his return to Messina. His unfortunately suspicious nature makes him quick to believe evil rumors and hasty to despair and take revenge.

Hero- Lead

The beautiful young daughter of Leonato and the cousin of Beatrice. Hero is lovely, gentle, and kind. Hero experiences first love and a huge betrayal in the midst of that first love. Her ability to forgive after the betrayal makes her a strong female character.

Don Pedro

An important nobleman from Aragon, sometimes referred to as "Prince." He is generous, courteous, intelligent, and loving to his friends, but he is also quick to believe evil of others and hasty to take revenge.

Leonato

A respected, well-to-do, elderly noble in Messina, where the action is set. Leonato is the father of Hero and the uncle of Beatrice.

Don John

The illegitimate brother of Don Pedro; sometimes called "the Bastard." Don John is melancholy and sullen by nature. He is the villain of the play; his evil actions are motivated by his envy of his brother's social authority.

Borachio

An associate of Don John. Borachio is the lover of Margaret, Hero's serving woman. His name means "drunkard" in Italian.

Dogberry

The constable in charge of the Watch, or chief policeman, of Messina. Dogberry is very sincere and takes his job seriously, but he has a habit of using exactly the wrong word to convey his meaning.

Balthasar

A waiting man in Leonato's household and a musician. Balthasar sings the song, "Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more" about accepting men's infidelity as natural.