

LITERATURE – 4A

START THINKING ...

1 Work in small groups. Discuss the questions.

- Do you enjoy romantic books and films? Why or why not?
- Have you ever been to a wedding? Talk about it.

Claudio was tricked into believing that his fiancée, Hero, was unfaithful to him. When he **confronted** her on their wedding day she ran away and **pretended** to be dead. Claudio's friend Benedick was also **tricked** into believing that Beatrice was in love with him, but their relationship ended after they had an argument. Claudio, his friend Leonato and the friar are in the **chapel**. Four ladies enter wearing **masks**.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (c. 1598) William Shakespeare

CLAUDIO Which lady must I marry?

LEONATO This one here.

CLAUDIO Sweet, let me see your face.

5 LEONATO No, you will not see her until you hold her hand before the friar and promise to marry her.

CLAUDIO Give me your hand before this holy friar. I will be your husband if you like me.

(takes off her mask)

10 CLAUDIO Another Hero!

HERO That is true. The real Hero was dead while the lies live. And as **surely** as I live, I am **innocent**.

FRIAR I'll explain everything after the wedding ceremony.

15 (Benedick enters and interrupts the ceremony.)

BENEDICK Dear, friar. Which of these masked ladies is Beatrice?

BEATRICE (takes off her mask) That is my name. What do you want?

20 BENEDICK Don't you love me?

BEATRICE No, only **moderately**.

BENEDICK Then your uncle and the Prince and Claudio have been **deceived** because they said you loved me.

25 BEATRICE Do you love me?

BENEDICK Only moderately.

BEATRICE Well, then my cousin, Margaret and Ursula have tricked me. They said you loved me.

BENEDICK They said you were sick with love for me.

30 BEATRICE I was told you were dying of love for me.

BENEDICK That's not true. Then do you love me?

BEATRICE No truly, only as a friend.



LEONATO Beatrice, I'm sure you love this man.

35 CLAUDIO I'm sure Benedick loves her. Here's a sonnet he has written to Beatrice.

HERO And here's a poem that Beatrice has written. I took it from her pocket. It's a poem about her love for Benedick.

40 BENEDICK It's a **miracle**! Our hands against our hearts! Come, Beatrice. I will marry you!

BEATRICE I won't say no, but it's only because I was told you were seriously ill.

BENEDICK Peace! I'll stop you talking!

45 *After the wedding of Claudio and Hero, the Friar marries Benedick and Beatrice. For the first time Benedick appears to be happy and they all dance to celebrate the joyful occasion.*

Glossary

confront to face, meet, or deal with a difficult situation or person

pretend to behave as if something is true when it is not

trick something you do to make someone look stupid

chapel a small church, or a room used as a church in a building

mask a cover for the face

surely used to express that you are certain or almost

certain about something

innocent If someone is innocent, they have not committed a crime

moderately average in size or amount and not too much

deceive to make someone believe something that is not true

miracle something that is very surprising or difficult to believe

2 **▶▶4A.1** Read the text and listen.

3 Read the text again. Mark the sentences T (true), F (false) or DS (doesn't say).

- 1 Claudio believed that Hero had died.
- 2 Beatrice says she loves Benedick as soon as she sees him.
- 3 Beatrice's friends had told her that Benedick was in love with her.
- 4 Beatrice and Benedick like writing poetry.
- 5 Beatrice won't marry Benedick because he's ill.
- 6 The scene has a happy ending.

4 **READ BETWEEN THE LINES** Do you think the statements are true? Explain why or why not.

- 1 Claudio doesn't want to get married.
- 2 Hero persuades Claudio that she hadn't been unfaithful to him.
- 3 Beatrice loves Benedick, but is afraid to admit it.

5 **VOCABULARY** Complete the sentences with the correct words from the glossary in the correct form.

- 1 Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway in a _____ in 1582.
- 2 He was _____ by a local landowner after he shot a deer on the man's estate.
- 3 He was only _____ successful at the beginning of his career and was often attacked in reviews.
- 4 He wrote 37 comedies; they're funny because the characters _____ each other and make jokes.
- 5 In *The Taming of the Shrew*, Tranio _____ to be Lucentio.
- 6 Shakespeare's characters often wear _____ to make them seem mysterious or deceitful.

6 Underline five words in the text that are new to you. Look them up in a dictionary and then write each of them in a sentence.

7 **ROLE PLAY** Work in pairs. Imagine that Beatrice refuses to marry Benedick. Student A is Beatrice, Student B is Benedick. Read the beginning of the conversation and then continue it using the ideas in the list.

love someone else | friends and family | mask
not trust | trick

BEATRICE I'm sorry, Benedick, but no, I won't marry you.

...

8 **LISTENING** **▶▶4A.2** Listen to the summary of the play. Write A (Beatrice), B (Benedick) or C (both).

- 1 is/are very clever.
- 2 At the beginning of the play, never want(s) to get married.
- 3 has/have been tricked.
- 4 refuse(s) to do something.
- 5 is/are dramatic.

9 **▶▶4A.2** Listen again. Answer the questions.

- 1 Where does Beatrice live?
- 2 Why doesn't Beatrice want to marry Don Pedro?
- 3 What is Benedick's job?
- 4 Why is it difficult to understand Benedick's feelings?

WRITING Plot

10 **WRITING** Write a love story that begins:

All of Rose's friends told her that Harry liked her ...

- Setting: where and when does the story take place?
- Characters: what do they look like? What kind of people are they?
- Plot: what happens in the story?
- Structure:
 - Beginning: introduce setting, characters and problem or dilemma.
 - Middle: describe the main action.
 - Ending: solve the problem or dilemma and tell the reader what happens to each character.

THINK SHAKESPEARE'S ENGLISH

Shakespeare invented about 1,700 new words and expressions and many of them are still in use today.

11 Look at the quotations in the list. What do you think they mean? Discuss with a partner, then do some research to check your answers.

- A heart of gold (*Henry V*)
- All of a sudden (*The Taming of the Shrew*)
- Vanish into thin air (*Othello*)
- Too much of a good thing (*As You Like It*)
- Truth will out (*The Merchant of Venice*)
- Neither here nor there (*Othello*)