

Much Ado
About
Nothing

Meet the Characters Act 1

Leonato His household
Hero Beatrice Antonio



Don Pedro His companions
Benedick Claudio



Don John His companion(s)
Borachio





The comic strip is a creative way to approach this response. However, it is a recount of the play rather than a developed representation





At times there is no clear connection between frames







Shakespeare Reflection Statement

For the Shakespeare Representation I proposed to do a comic strip. The comic strip is aimed at people no less than twelve years old. It should have a large range of audiences as it should be sold in newsagents, book stores and viewed online. This means that the audience should range from twelve years old up to late thirties or older. The purpose of the comic strip is to convey the themes of scheming (deception) and overhearing that is displayed in Act 1 of the play Much Ado About Nothing.

Characters

In the comic strip the character of **Conrade** is chosen to be left out as he does not really convey much of the scheming or overhearing in Act 1.

Leonato is shown in the comic strip with a fashion like hairstyle this is used to convey the age of the character. He is also sometimes hunched back to show he is getting old as his son will not be able to support himself. Leonato also wears a cape like coat which resembles his power and wealth as people like kings and queens use to wear it.

Don Pedro is shown wearing a crown as he is the prince of Arragon. This symbolises the power and respect that everyone has for him and his high ranking status.

Hero has straightish dark hair to represent her quiet nature of her character. She wears soft coloured clothes to symbolise her peaceful and sweet nature.

Beatrice is represented with wavy hair to represent the liveliness of her character. Beatrice always smiling face conveys the cleverness of her character and how she is a cheerful character. She dresses in orange to show her character stands out as well as her sunny happy nature.

Benedick is shown with three spike shaped hair which is supposed to resemble a joker's hat. This conveys his witty and joking personality of Benedick. His personality is also shown through his always smiling character usually with big smiles on his face. This conveys that Benedick is mostly a happy cheerful person.

Claudio has a round smooth haircut which contrasts with Benedick's spiky hair cut. This contrast the liveliness of Benedick's character with the calmness of Claudio's.

Don John's character is displayed with spiky, black hair this displays his evilness of his character. He also always never smiles in the comic script which shows he is not a very happy character. He dresses in black to symbolise his evil dark nature.

Don Pedro, Claudio and Benedick are all wearing green as they are just back from war. Colour is also used to add visual interest to the comic strip and enable the reader to tell the different characters apart.

The Comic Strip

After the title page the comic strip starts off with meet the characters. This enables the readers to familiarise themselves with the character and their name before they continue to read the comic strip. The first few frames show the humour of the play as Don Pedro asks Leonato "is this your daughter" and Leonato replies "her mother hath many times told me so". Humour is also seen when Benedick asks Leonato if he doubts she is his daughter as he had to ask her mum. Later we learn that Leonato has gotten Benedick back when Don Pedro says "He got you back Benedick".

Beatrice and Benedick's relationship is also displayed in the comic strip. After Beatrice states "I'm amazed you're still talking...nobody marks you" Beatrice and Benedick start to argue or as Leonato put in his thoughts "skirmish or wits".

Rylee provides some insight into the characters in the play

BEGIN". During the argument there is humour as seen when Benedick imagines a parrot teaching. The two characters connection is shown through the use of taking each other words and criticizing them. For example when Benedick says "some poor gentleman will have his face all scratched" Beatrice comebacks saying "scratching could not make it worse if it was a face like yours".

The theme of unwillingness to marry is shown when Benedick says "for I truly love none" and I will live a bachelor". Beatrice also conveys this theme by saying "I'd rather hear a dog bark at a crow than a man swears he loves me". On the other hand this theme is contrasted by the character of Claudio who has fallen in love and wants to get married to Leonato's daughter. The comic strip displays this when Claudio says to Benedick "I would scarce trust myself, though I had sworn on contrary, if Hero would be my wife".

The first scheming scene is introduced when Don Pedro "disguise myself (himself) as you (Claudio) and pour 'my' (Claudio) feelings and grasp her hear heart and break it to her father". This shows the theme of disguise and mischief of the play. The scheme leads on to the dominate theme of overhearing. First is the less damaging as Antonio's servant does not hear it right. Instead he thinks "Don Pedro tells Claudio of his love for" Hero. This continues on to another theme of the play mishearing or misinterpretation. On the other hand another group of people overhear the scheme but plan to use it for another scheme. "Will it serve for any model to build mischief on?" Borachio unlike the servant hears it correctly, but the information is passed on to Don John. Don John plans to use the information as he states "if I can cross Claudio in any way, I bless myself everyway".

The scenes of Don John and his companions are greyish in lighting to show that menacing, dark mood that is in the scene of their scheming. This hints something bad is going on. In the last scene Don John holds a mask which symbolising the deception that is about to happen.

The comic strip then is "TO BE CONTINUED" this adds tension to the reader as the play ended in a manner where the readers know something bad is bound to happen. This technique is use to ensure the readers will continue to read the series of comic books as they will feel an urge to continue to read it to find out what happens next.

Grade Commentary

Rylee demonstrates the basic features of a comic strip to recount events in the play. Some symbolism is evident; however, it is the only genre-specific technique used. Greater exploration of key themes and concepts in the play would add depth to the selection of episodes presented. There is similarity in the framing and visual elements used. The reflection statement provides greater insight into the play than the comic strip, especially the representation of women. Rylee's work sample demonstrates characteristics of work typically produced by a student performing at a grade D standard.