

# Knowledge Organiser— MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING Year 8



## Events Time Line

### Act 1

*Much Ado About Nothing* begins in Messina, where Leonato lives with his daughter, Hero, and her cousin and companion, the Lady Beatrice. Leonato receives word that his friend, the Duke Don Pedro has returned from war and plans to visit with some of his fellow soldiers. Among the party is Claudio, who quickly falls in love with Hero. Benedick, a bachelor who says he is against love and marriage, also comes — and he enjoys speaking his mind in witty argument with Beatrice.

### Act 2

Leonato holds a masked ball to celebrate the end of the war. While at the ball, the engagement of Claudio and Hero is arranged. At the same time, Don Pedro's evil brother, Don John, seeks a way to spoil everyone's happiness. Don John plots with the soldiers, Borachio and Conrad, to deceive Claudio into believing Hero has cheated on him.

### Act 3

That night, Hero's maid, Margaret, talks with Borachio from Hero's bedroom window. Claudio and the Duke watch secretly from a distance and think that the girl at the window is Hero.

Meanwhile, Hero, Claudius and Don Pedro decide Benedick and Beatrice are ideal partners, despite (or because of) their bickering. They make a plot to allow Benedick to overhear them discussing Beatrice's love for him and vice versa. After a series of overheard conversations, Benedick and Beatrice realise they do indeed love one another.

### Act 4

At Hero's wedding, Claudio is still deceived into thinking Hero cheated on him. He publicly humiliates her and leaves her apparently dead from shock. With the help of the priest, Leonato, Beatrice, and Benedick decide to pretend that Hero is actually dead until her name can be cleared.

Later, the watchmen—the bumbling village constable Dogberry and Verges—overhear Borachio and Conrad brag about the trick that they played on Claudio and Don Pedro. They arrest the pair.

### Act 5

Dogberry's information about Hero's innocence is given to Leonato and Don Pedro. As punishment for causing Hero's death, Claudio agrees to accept Leonato's "niece" in her place.

The "niece" turns out to be Hero.

The play comes to a joyful conclusion as the lovers are reunited, and Benedick and Beatrice announce that they will share the wedding day. Don John has been captured while trying to escape and is left for future trial while the play ends with a merry dance.

## Some Key Themes

love

deceit and lies

marriage

gender

transformation and change

reputation and honour

## Some Context

- The play was first performed around 1598/99 during the reign of Elizabeth I.
- The play focuses on the importance of female chastity: the idea that women saved themselves for their husbands and did not cheat on their husbands. Loss of chastity could lead to loss of reputation—and social rejection.
- Women at the time were seen as subordinate to men, needing to take orders from their fathers and then their husbands. An uncontrollable woman was seen as a social embarrassment. A man whose wife cheated on him was called a "cuckold" and jokes were made about him having horns on his head.

## Key Characters



BEATRICE BENEDICK

CLAUDIO

HERO



DON PEDRO

DON JOHN

LEONATO

ANTONIO



BORACHIO CONRAD

URSULA

MARGARET



DOGBERRY VERGES

## Some Useful Words & Phrases

- **traditional gender roles:** the idea that males have more control and more activity in society, females have more domestic interests
- **infidelity:** (noun) unfaithfulness, disloyalty—often meaning cheating on someone in a relationship
- **unfounded:** (adjective) untrue, not based upon fact or reality
- **vilified:** (adjective/verb) to speak ill of someone, to slander their reputation
- **witticisms:** (noun) witty comments, cleverly funny comments in conversation

## Some Key Techniques

- **foreshadowing:** when an event or detail hints to a future event or detail
  - **irony:** when a deeper, real layer of importance is revealed not by the words themselves but the situation
  - **situational irony:** when an outcome is strikingly opposite to what was expected or what should have happened
  - **dramatic irony:** when the audience understands more than the characters in the book
  - **aside:** when a character briefly says something which the audience hears but other characters do not
  - **soliloquy:** a speech delivered by a single character alone on stage; they often give the audience a privileged insight into the character's thoughts and feelings
  - **pathos:** feelings of pity and sympathy
  - **wordplay:** puns, jokes, similes, metaphors etc. used for comic effect
  - **allusion:** when a character makes a reference to a person, place, event or myth which the audience is expected to recognise; eg *Cupid* is mentioned many times in the play
  - **subplot:** a secondary plot in the play, adding complications and extra obstacles in the way of the characters
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- **duplicity:** deception, pretended or fake behaviour
  - **camaraderie:** (noun) comradeship, the sense of being in a team or group

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## Plot Questions

<b>Act 1</b>	<input type="radio"/> At the start of the play, when Leonato welcomes the men home, where have they just <i>been</i> ? <input type="radio"/> Who wants to marry Hero? <input checked="" type="radio"/> What has Don John been doing before the play begins? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who will woo Hero on Claudio's behalf?
<b>Act 2</b>	<input type="radio"/> Which two people do others try to trick into falling in love with each other? <input checked="" type="radio"/> What does Borachio promise to do for Don John?
<b>Act 3</b>	<input type="radio"/> With which character is Claudio tricked into thinking Hero is cheating on him? <input type="radio"/> Who do Hero and Ursula trick into believing she is loved by Benedick? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who overhears the deceitful plan to make Hero seem unfaithful? <input checked="" type="radio"/> What event does Claudio decide to use to humiliate Hero?
<b>Act 4</b>	<input type="radio"/> Who says that his daughter, Hero, should be allowed to die to avoid the shame of being caught cheating on her fiancé? <input type="radio"/> Whom does Beatrice ask Benedick to kill? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who has the plan to pretend that Hero has died?
<b>Act 5</b>	<input type="radio"/> Who convinces Claudio and Don Pedro that Hero was actually innocent? <input type="radio"/> Who delivers a poem next to Hero's tomb? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who claims he is not able to write love poems when wooing her love? <input checked="" type="radio"/> When Claudio agrees to marry the masked woman, whom does he <i>think</i> she is?

## Character Questions

<input type="radio"/> Who is Hero's father? <input type="radio"/> Who is Don Pedro's evil brother? <input type="radio"/> To whom is Benedick speaking when he declares: "Thou and I are too wise to woo peaceably"? <input type="radio"/> Whom does Hero love? <input type="radio"/> What is the name of Leonato's brother? <input type="radio"/> What is the name of Hero's servant who accidentally nearly ruins Hero's life?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Whom is Benedick describing: "She speaks poniards, and every word stabs"? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Which character is the Prince of Aragon? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who says: "I had rather hear my dog bark at a crow than a man swear he loves me"? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who says: "I do love nothing in the world so well as you. Is not that strange?" <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who is described as being a man "Whose spirits toil in frame of villainies"? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who says: "I love you with so much of my heart that none is left to protest"? <input checked="" type="radio"/> When Leonato says "There's a skirmish of wit between them" of whom is he speaking? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Whose name means "drunkard" in Italian?
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## Ideas Questions

<input type="radio"/> Which character is unjustly <b>vilified</b> ? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>Don John</span> <span>Borachio</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>Conrad</span> <span>Hero</span> </div>
<input type="radio"/> Which word best describes the mood when the men return from war? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>cuckoldry</span> <span>camaraderie</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>irony</span> <span>deflated</span> </div>
<input type="radio"/> Which word describes the accusation made against Hero? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>infertility</span> <span>infirmity</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>infidelity</span> <span>incredulity</span> </div>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Which word best describes the tactic used to get Beatrice and Benedick together? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>duplicity</span> <span>soliloquy</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>pathos</span> <span>allusion</span> </div>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Which word best describes the accusations made against Hero's reputation? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>uncontrolled</span> <span>unfounded</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>incontrovertible</span> <span>illogical</span> </div>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Which word best describes the way Beatrice and Benedick argue with each other at the start? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>weary</span> <span>wistful</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>whinging</span> <span>witty</span> </div>

**Go!** give it a **GETTING IT WRONG IS ABSOLUTELY OKAY. NOT EVEN HAVING A GO IS JUST A BIT PATHETIC.**

# Knowledge Organiser— *As You Like It* Year 8



## Events Time Line

### Act I

The evil Duke Frederick takes over from his brother, Duke Senior. But he allows Senior's daughter, Rosalind, to remain with Celia.

Orlando is treated harshly by his eldest brother, Oliver. Bitter and angry, Orlando challenges the court wrestler, Charles, to a fight. When Oliver learns of the fight, Oliver tells Charles to injure Orlando if possible.

Rosaline and Celia watch the wrestling competition. During the match, Rosalind and Orlando fall in love.

### Act II

Orlando is warned of his brother's plot against him and escapes to the Forest of Arden. Duke Frederick banishes Rosalind. She decides to seek shelter in the Forest of Arden with Celia. They both disguise themselves: Rosalind as the young man Ganymede and Celia as his shepherdess sister Aliena. Touchstone, the court fool, also goes with them.

### Act III

In the Forest of Arden, "Ganymede" and "Aliena" come upon Silvius, a lovesick shepherd. Silvius was in the act of declaring his feelings for Phoebe, a shepherdess who doesn't want to be with him.

Ganymede and Aliena set up home in the forest. Not far away, and unaware of the newcomers, Duke Senior is living a simple outdoor life with his friends. They are interrupted by the arrival of Orlando, who demands nourishment for himself and his servant. The two men are welcomed by Duke Senior—Orlando is embarrassed.

Ganymede and Aliena find love poems addressed to Rosalind hung on the forest branches by Orlando. Ganymede finds Orlando and proposes to cure Orlando of his love. To do this, Orlando will chat-up Ganymede as if he were Rosalind (even though "he" really is Rosalind!). Orlando agrees and visits Ganymede/Rosalind every day for his lessons.

In the meantime, the shepherdess Phoebe has

fallen in love with "Ganymede". Touchstone, the court fool, has dazzled a country girl, Audrey, with his sophisticated manners. Audrey leaves her old boyfriend, William, for him.

### Act IV

Duke Frederick orders Oliver to the forest to seek his brother. In the forest, Orlando saves Oliver's from a lion, injuring his arm in the process. Oliver runs into Ganymede and Aliena in the forest and relates this news. Celia (disguised as Aliena) and Oliver quickly fall in love with one another. Rosalind decides that it is time to end her game with Orlando and invents a plan in which everyone will get married.

### Act V

"Ganymede" promises everyone that they will get married.

On the day of the wedding, Rosalind reappears in her female clothes. Duke Senior gives her away to Orlando, while Phoebe accepts Silvius. Orlando's other older brother returns from college with the news that Celia's father, Duke Ferdinand, has left court to become a hermit. Everyone dances to celebrate their marriages—except Jacques.

## Some Key Themes

love

city life versus country life

disguise

loyalty

changes in life

nature

## Key Characters



## Some Key Techniques

**monologue:** a speech from a single character, uninterrupted by others

**soliloquy:** when a character is speaking his/her thoughts aloud when by oneself or regardless of any hearers

**foreshadowing:** when a detail in a text hints forward to something which happens later

## Some Useful Words

- **melancholic:** (adjective) depressed, sad
- **arcadian:** (adjective) for perfect countryside, innocent
- **pessimistic:** (adjective) always seeing the worst in things
- **fatalistic:** (adjective) believing that what will be will be, and you can't do anything to change it

## Some Context

- The play was written around 1599.
- The Elizabethans had a strict class structure:
  - nobility (kings and dukes)
  - gentry (knights and ladies)
  - yeomanry (rich farmers and merchants)
  - peasants.
- Peasants were expected to bow down to those higher on the social ladder.
- Most peasants lived in the country. People in towns and cities might think of themselves as more sophisticated and cultured.
- *Melancholia* was a medical condition like depression which Elizabethans believed was caused by too much liquid bile in the system. They believed that humans had four substances (humours) which should be in perfect balance: blood, phlegm, yellow bile and black bile.

# Knowledge Organiser— *As You Like It* Year 8



## Plot Questions

- Where does Duke Senior go to escape his brother?
- What physical activity is Orlando doing when Rosaline falls in love with him?
- When Duke Frederick banishes Rosaline, which female friend decides to join her even though she does not need to?
- What does Orlando do to trees to show his love for Rosaline?
- After the marriages, what do most of the characters do to show how happy they are? (Clue: not “kiss”!)

- ⊕ In Act 1, who does Oliver try to trick into hurting or even killing Orlando?
- ⊕ When Duke Senior sees the starving Orlando in the forest, he comments that there is much sadness in this “wide and universal theatre”. What is Jacques’ response to this?
- ⊕ What brave act does Orlando do to save his brother which leads to them being friends again?
- ⊕ What is the name of the play’s arcadian retreat?
- ⊕ At the end of the okay, who joins Duke Frederick in a monastery rather than join in the marriage party?

## Character Questions

- Which character throws out his own brother to become the new Duke?
- Who is Rosaline’s cousin and best friend?
- Who is Orlando’s mean older brother?
- What is Rosaline’s name when she disguises herself as a boy?
- What is the name of the court fool who joins Rosaline in the forest?

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- ⊕ What is the name of the servant who gives up his job to follow Orlando for free?
- ⊕ Which character is the melancholic type?
- ⊕ What is the name of the lovesick shepherd who is chasing Phoebe?
- ⊕ Who angrily demands food from Duke Senior in the forest—then feels ashamed of himself?
- ⊕ Who dumps William to marry Touchstone?
- ⊕ Who falls in love with Celia as soon as he sees her?

## Ideas Questions

- Which word best describes Jacques?
 

jolly	depressive
considerate	lively

- Which word best describes Rosaline?
 

witty	vicious
scary	lazy

- Which word best describes Duke Frederick?
 

kind	forceful
generous	fair

- Which word best describes Celia?
 

aggressive	sly
loyal	extreme

- ⊕ Orlando’s relationship with Oliver *at the start* is best described as
 

easy	affectionate
cosy	resentful

- ⊕ Orlando’s relationship with Oliver *at the end* is best described as
 

redelivered	redundant
redemptive	redolent

- ⊕ Jacques’ attitude to love is basically
 

broad-minded	cynical
impressed	grateful

- ⊕ Jacques’ Seven Ages speech suggests that his attitude to death is basically
 

hopeful	inspirational
fatalistic	cheerful

- ⊕ By disappearing to a monastery at the end, Jacques’ attitude to love and marriage seems to be on of
 

intrigue	rejection
betrayal	infatuation