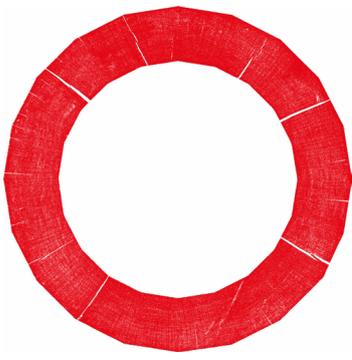


Activities: Key Stage 3

First interview with Rachel Winters playing Margaret

- 1) Find the Week 1 audio interview with Rachel Winters playing Margaret on the Playing Shakespeare web-site. In the interview Rachel talks about Margaret's character.
- 2) Work in a small group. Rachel makes the point that Margaret is a very likeable character describing her as 'cool' and with a clever humorous wit to rival Beatrice. Read through Act 3 sc4 where Margaret tries to convince Beatrice that she must be in love. Find examples which show how Margaret can match Beatrice with clever replies.
- 3) One person should play Margaret and the other Beatrice. Face each other and speak some of the lines to each other. Try saying the lines first as sharply as you can and then slowly. Decide which way of saying the lines is the most successful. Next the others in the group should decide which of the two is best at making quick witty replies to put down the other.
- 4) Margaret is a servant in Leonato's family. Discuss how the scene with Beatrice shows that Margaret is not like a typical servant.
- 5) Rachel comments that people talk about Margaret as being, 'more witty than Beatrice', and that 'she's not intimidated by any of the men'. Read Act 5 sc2 1-23 where Margaret and Benedick make witty remarks to each other. How does this scene show that Benedick is treating Margaret as if she is his equal?
- 6) Read the part of the scene set in the ball where Margaret and Borachio, both wearing masks, talk to each other (Act2 sc1 99-109). Discuss what their conversation reveals about the relationship between Margaret and Borachio and how their relationship differs from that between Hero and Claudio.



Playing Shakespeare
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Activities: Key Stage 3

First interview with Rachel Winters playing Margaret

- 7) Compare Margaret with the other women in the play: Hero, Beatrice and Ursula. For instance, Margaret and Ursula are servants while Beatrice and Hero are their mistresses. Discuss the way their different positions in society affect the way they behave.
- 8) Make a poster with Margaret's image in the centre surrounded by images of the other women Hero, Beatrice and Ursula. Add words and quotations to each image to show how they are affected by their position in the society of the time.
- 9) Share your findings with other groups.

**SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE**