



Activities: Key Stage 4

Much Ado About Quite a Lot

To evaluate the impact of context upon the title.

- 1) Find the article 'Much Ado About Quite a Lot' by Miranda Fay Thomas on the web-site. In the article Miranda identifies a range of issues that the play Much Ado is really about, rather than 'Nothing'.
- 2) Work in pairs or small groups. Discuss these suggestions made in the article and decide: are there any other ideas you could add to Miranda's suggestions?
- 3) Next, decide which of the issues identified you think are the most important. Why do you think you have selected your first choice?
- 4) In the article, Miranda raises the question of the play's title suggesting that 'Nothing' is misleading. Why might Shakespeare have therefore chosen this?
- 5) In Shakespeare's time, 'nothing' would have had additional connotations. Find out what these are.
- 6) As you'll have identified, some of the meaning created by the title is lost to a modern audience. How could you remedy this? What title would you give to the play to more accurately reflect its themes to an audience in our time?
- 7) Present your updated title choice to others in the class, being prepared to defend your choice with reference to the text and your context.