

Activities: Key Stage 4

Verse and Prose

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To analyse how verse is used across *Much Ado About Nothing* to highlight Benedick's character journey/development.

1) Find the article 'Verse and Prose' on the web-site. The article discusses the different ways verse and prose are used by Shakespeare in his plays. It explains that, often, prose is used for witty and amusing conversation while verse is used for more formal or ceremonial occasions.

2) The article describes the differences in feeling between the two speeches made by Beatrice and Benedick after each of them has been tricked into believing the other loves them. It explains that Beatrice speaks in verse while Benedick's words are in prose giving a different sense of their feelings as they think about what they have overheard.

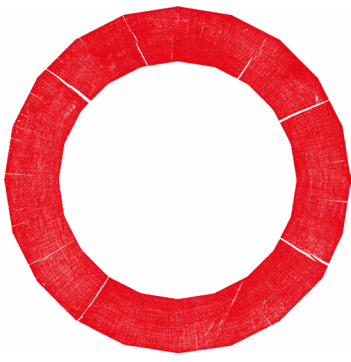
3) Try saying some of the lines from the two speeches in an emotional way.

4) Now, try saying some of the lines from the speech in a more ordinary, less emotional way.

5) Which character's lines work better with the more emotional delivery? Why do you think this is?

6) At the end of the article, it states that Benedick speaks in verse later in the play, showing a change in his feelings. Where do you think this might happen?

7) Find this part of the play and compare this with your prediction: were you correct? If not, how surprised are you that Shakespeare used it where he did?



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- 8) What does the speech in verse show the audience about Benedick's feelings?
- 9) Share what you have found about the change in Benedick's feelings with others in the class.

**SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE**