



Activities: Key Stage 4 Week 3 Blog

- 1) Find the Week 3 blog by the assistant director of the play Tom Davey. In his third blog Tom describes a visit to the rehearsals made by a former soldier to help the actors with the way that they should move and behave in the play to convince the audience that they are real soldiers.
- 2) During his visit to the actors, the former soldier Anthony Raine explained what he thought was the most likely military rank of each of the soldiers. Tom explains his feeling that it is status and the characters' perception of it that drives the plot.
- 3) Work in a pair or group. Use the following activities to help you decide how far you agree with Tom that it is the differences in status of the soldiers that are the driving force in the play.
 - a. Look at Act 1 sc3 where Don John reveals his dislike of Claudio and then plots to convince Claudio that Don Pedro is trying to win Hero. Find quotations which reveal his dislike of Claudio.
 - b. Next look at Act 2 sc2 where Don John and Borachio plot the public shaming of Hero. How does this scene add to the sense of their resentment towards Claudio?
 - c. Tom also makes clear that Don Pedro's status means that his word carries more weight than the lower status soldiers and more weight than the women in the play. How is the status of the men important when Hero is trying to defend herself against the terrible accusations made by Claudio during the wedding scene?
- 4) How far you agree with Tom that the issue of status is a driving force of the play? How and why is this issue still relevant to a modern audience?
- 5) Present the findings of your work to the rest of the class, ensuring that your ideas are supported with evidence from the text.