



A guide to the Globe Education *Much Ado About Nothing* resource.

The Language section

Ability to analyze the ways in which characters and playwright use language is always one of the most important areas for the KS3 National Tests. In the Language section of the site we have endeavored to enable students to explore each of the set scenes in detail. Students can explore the interactive text, which contains a glossary, demonstrates literary terms and activated the director's cut for performance. Students can also listen to performances of certain bits of the scenes as well as interviews with the cast and creative team. There is an area which encourages students to look at the two scenes within the *context of the whole play and also a page of links to other online resources for Much Ado About Nothing* to emphasize that the Globe Education production is only one of many possible interpretations of the play.

The Characters and Motivation section

This area is designed as a social networking site for the characters in the play. Each character has a profile page which can be accessed through clicking their image on the landing page. On each page you can read what characters say about themselves and what other characters say about them on their 'wall'. An image gallery displays the transformation of the actor into their character. The profiles all contain a series of short interviews with the actor as they develop their character for the production at the Globe Theatre. Through each profile you can follow the networks of relationships, friendship and romance, building

up an appreciation of the ties that bind characters together, which generate the events of the play. Each character even has their favorite Shakespeare quotes from the complete works to stimulate thought about that character within the context of other characters Shakespeare may have written. A useful exercise might be to compare what a character says about themselves with the perceptions of others; or consider the picture of a character you develop from different words used to describe them. You may wish to use your ideas from the language area of the site to inform this exploration. As you develop your own ideas about individual characters, you can follow the development of the Globe's production, and consider how the actors have chosen to present them.

The Themes and Issues section

The themes and issues section of the website aims to promote discussion about some of the ideas the play explores. It does this by providing a forum for students to express their opinions on a discussion board about the issues in the play. Actors from the production and patrons of the project will add their thoughts about the themes of the play on the discussion board. This area also features four articles taken from a lecture by Dr Farah Karim-Cooper on: Women, Bastards, Marriage and Slander. We hope students will consider the play alongside these articles, perhaps discuss their ideas in the classroom or with friends and share their thoughts with each other online.

The Text in Performance section

It is key that students understand that a play is written to be performed and therefore this area of the site is constructed as a production timeline which aims to record and share the process of the play transforming from words on a page to living production. As the production develops more sections will be added to the timeline. Here you will be able to read interviews with the creative production team and crew about the practicalities of mounting a production as well as see images of the production coming together. A team of students from local schools are reporters for this area of the site; posting their take on what happens in a rehearsal room. They will also be reviewing the show.