*Much Ado About Nothing* Guide Questions

Act I

Why does Beatrice ask about Benedick? What is the “real” reason?

How does Benedick react to Claudio’s declaration that Hero is the “sweetest lady that ever I looked on”?

Why does Claudio send Don Pedro as his emissary to Hero to declare his love?

Why does Don John want to cause trouble? Why is he so morose?

Act II

What are Beatrice’s reasons for not wanting to have anything to do with men?

What are Leonato’s instructions to his daughter, Hero, and what do these show about traditional attitudes?

According to the stage directions for the dance, Don John is not masked during the revels. Why?

Do you think Beatrice and Benedick know each other when they speak behind their masks? Why or why not?

Why does Don John pretend that he does not recognize Claudio?

How does Benedick feel about his conversation with Beatrice?

What does Beatrice mean when she says, “once before he [Benedick] won it [my heart] of me with false dice”?

Why is Claudio unable to speak when Don Pedro tells him that the Lady Hero is his?

Why does Don Pedro’s plan work so well?

How does Benedick rationalize himself into loving Beatrice?

Act III

Why does Hero say that she will not tell Beatrice about Benedick’s love?

Is Beatrice too critical of men? Why/why not?

Why do the men make fun of Benedick?

How does Don John plan to deceive Claudio and Don Pedro?

Why does the Watch arrest Borachio and Conrade?

Act IV

How does Claudio judge Hero’s behavior when he accuses her?

How do the rest of the company react? Leonato, Benedick, and Beatrice

How does the Friar propose to judge the situation?

What does the Friar hope will happen as a result of his plan to have it published that Hero is dead? What kind of change does he think will come about in Claudio?

What happens between Benedick and Beatrice?

Why does Beatrice want to kill Claudio?

How does the confusion in the speech of Dogberry ironic?

Act V

Does Leonato think Hero is guilty of being unvirtuous? Why or why not?

What is Claudio’s attitude? What does this show about his character?

How does Don Pedro act when Benedick meets them? What is your reaction to the exchange of the three men? Why do you think they are acting as they do?

To what extent is the punishment Leonato places on Claudio fitting? Why does he want Claudio to believe that he has killed Hero?

Why do Beatrice and Benedick talk about loving each other only according to “reason”? How do they really feel about each other?