

CANON CLASSICS
END-OF-BOOK TEST
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

NAME: _____

SCORE: _____ / 32 pts.

THE PLAY:¹ Answer the questions below.

1. Who was the queen of England at the time of the play? (4 pts.)

Elizabeth, the virgin queen whom everyone wondered if she would marry.

2. What does the word “noting” have to do with the play? (4 pts.)

The word for “noting” means to observe or spy on someone. The word “nothing” from the title “Much Ado About Nothing” was pronounced the same way.

THE PLOT: Answer the questions below quickly and succinctly.

3. What happened in the war before the play? (4 pts.)

Don Pedro put down a rebellion led by his brother Don John.

4. How does Don John trick Claudio? (4 pts.)

One of his henchmen meets with one of Hero’s maids and they kiss, and he calls her Hero. Meanwhile Don John tells Claudio and the prince that Hero is kissing a man, and he leads them to a place where they can watch it happen. Claudio thinks it’s Hero and is hoodwinked.

5. What does Beatrice ask Benedick to do to prove his love for her? (2 pts.)

Challenge Claudio to a duel.

THE WORLDVIEW: Please complete the following essay questions on the back of this test or a separate sheet of paper. Be specific and detailed in your answers, showing original thought and creativity (e.g., don’t just regurgitate the Worldview Guide.)

6. Essay 1: Give examples of deceptions and plots from the play. (6 pts.)

Essay 1: Answers will vary, but some of the following are good examples:

- * The plot of the prince to get Hero to dance with him and then to accept Claudio.*
- * The lie Don John tells Claudio about the prince wooing Hero for himself.*
- * The plot of the prince to convince Benedick and Beatrice that each is in love with the other by having them hear others saying it.*
- * The scheme of Don John to have Claudio and the prince “watch” Hero kissing another man.*

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7. Essay 2: How does Shakespeare expose the folly of the nobility and their sense of honor? Do any of the characters overcome their sense of honor? (8 pts.)

Answers will vary. Some points may include the following:

- * Claudio shows his sense of honor throughout the entire play. He is afraid to tell the prince about his love for Hero and immediately believes Don John when he tells him the prince woos for himself. He is also ready to believe Don John and doesn't investigate whether what he has seen is true or not.
- * Benedick is actually very concerned about his honor. He says he will die a bachelor, and he is very afraid of losing his manhood by marrying. He is also afraid of defying the prince and Claudio, and Beatrice has to plead with him to fight for her.
- * Both the prince and Leonato believe Don John as well and are angry with Hero for risking their reputations.
- * Shakespeare has the plot of Don John unravelled by Dogberry and the watch, who are not the cleverest characters in the play by any stretch.
- * Some of the characters repent; others are more questionable. Don Pedro and Claudio have to publicly mourn for Hero, but it's debatable whether they recognize their sin of slandering Hero and believing a lie without proof. Leonato is a bit self-concerned and never comforts Hero, but he does challenge Claudio and the Prince to a duel. Benedick overcomes his fear and challenges Claudio too, and he and Beatrice live happily ever after.