RAISING ACHIEVEMENT · MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING · DRILL 1

A piece of valiant dust

Beatrice

Today: how Shakespeare presents Beatrice as a woman who thinks for herself

25 minutes

Do Now

Know

1. Who is Hero’s father?
2. What is a metaphor?
3. What do we call a play that ends happily, usually with a wedding?
4. Around 1600, whose agreement did a daughter need before she married?
5. What do we call the ideas and feelings a word suggests beyond its dictionary meaning?

Do Now: answers

Know

1. Who is Hero's father?
   Leonato.

2. What is a metaphor?
   A way of describing one thing as if it were another.

3. What do we call a play that ends happily, usually with a wedding?
   A comedy.

4. Around 1600, whose agreement did a daughter need before she married?
   Her father's.

5. What do we call the ideas and feelings a word suggests beyond its dictionary meaning?
   Its connotations.

Focus reminder

Know

What a plan for the Much Ado About Nothing question looks like

Thesis first: one sentence that answers the question with an idea, not a retelling.

Three points: one from the extract, two from other moments in the play.

Each point gets a short quotation and the method Shakespeare uses.

Add context: a daughter’s need for her father’s consent, and what a marriage joined in about 1600.

Beatrice on husbands

Read

William Shakespeare · 1598–99 · Act 2 Scene 1

BEATRICE.
Yes, faith; it is my cousin’s duty to make curtsy and say
“Father, as it please you.” But yet for all that, cousin, let
him be a handsome fellow, or else make another curtsy and say
“Father, as it please me.”
LEONATO.
Well, niece, I hope to see you one day fitted with a husband.
BEATRICE.
Not till God make men of some other metal than earth. Would it
not grieve a woman to be overmastered with a piece of valiant
dust? to make an account of her life to a clod of wayward
marl? No, uncle, I’ll none: Adam’s sons are my brethren; and,
truly, I hold it a sin to match in my kindred.
LEONATO.
Daughter, remember what I told you: if the prince do solicit
you in that kind, you know your answer.