

Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare

The activities below will help you to explore some of the imagery used in the play, in Act 1 Scene 1, Act 2 Scene 1 and Act 4 Scene 1.

Task one

Sort the statements to show:

- which ones are said about Hero and which ones are said about Beatrice
- how flattering the comments are, from most to least flattering.



Lady Disdain

a rare parrot-teacher

... she's too low for a high praise, too brown for a fair praise,
and too little for a great praise.

such a jewel

Harpy

my Lady Tongue

this rotten orange

an approved wanton

... you are more intemperate in your blood, / Than Venus, or
those pamper'd animals, / That rage in savage sensuality.

a common stale

fallen / Into a pit of ink, that the wide sea / Hath drops too
few to wash her clean again ...

Task two: Complete the table to explore what the imagery reveals about the characters.

	... said about (Hero or Beatrice?)	... by ...	This shows us that she is seen as ...
Lady Disdain			
a rare parrot-teacher			
... she's too low for a high praise, too brown for a fair praise, and too little for a great praise.			
such a jewel			

Harpy			
my Lady Tongue			
this rotten orange			
an approved wanton			
... you are more intemperate in your blood, / Than Venus, or those pamper'd animals, / That rage in savage sensuality.			

a common stale			
fallen / Into a pit of ink, that the wide sea / Hath drops too few to wash her clean again ...			

Task three

Now choose up to five of the quotations and complete the following activities for each quotation:

- Draw a picture of the image created.
- Annotate with ideas to explain how and why the character is described this way, and the attitudes to men and women shown in the play.