Much Ado About Nothing  |  Teacher Guide

Did you know?

For every scene, we have provided insight into RSC rehearsal practice, so that students can link the work they are doing in the classroom to the work that is done by actors, directors and designers at the RSC. We hope that students will see themselves as fellow artists, working alongside the professionals, exploring the play in a similar way.

For your teaching needs, you may choose to work on key scenes. However, if you work through the whole play from beginning to end, using the activities on each page, you will be taking your students on a progressive learning journey. Their journey parallels the journey which the RSC follows in rehearsal for a production: a collaborative, cumulative exploration. Some activities may feel more comfortable for your teaching style or environment than others, and you may, of course, choose to use the activities alongside your own classroom approaches.

Summary

At the top of every page is a summary of what happens on the facing page. This is provided so that students can efficiently and easily contextualize the text and understand the action.

Activity 1: Exploring the theme of deception

At the time

There are simple social and historical research tasks, so that students can use knowledge from the time the play was written to help them interpret the script. The social and historical information can be found towards the front of the edition of the play.

Key terms

Where needed, there is an explanation of any key terms used, literary or theatrical.

RSC production photographs

Every page includes at least one photograph from an RSC production of the play. Some of the activities make direct use of the production photographs. The photographs illustrate the action, bringing to life the text on the page. They also include a caption that identifies the characters or event, together with the date of the RSC production.

Glossary

Where needed, there is a glossary which explains those words which may be unfamiliar to students and cannot be worked out in context.