

'Much Ado about Nothing' by William Shakespeare

- Alliteration

"Can cunning sin cover itself withal". (4.1.28-29) - the repetition of the 's' sound implies slyness and danger. The words 'cunning' and 'cover' reiterate the significance of the theme of 'noting' (or rather, not noting). It also shows how the cunningness of some characters (e.g Hero) can 'cover' the truth (e.g the gulling scene).

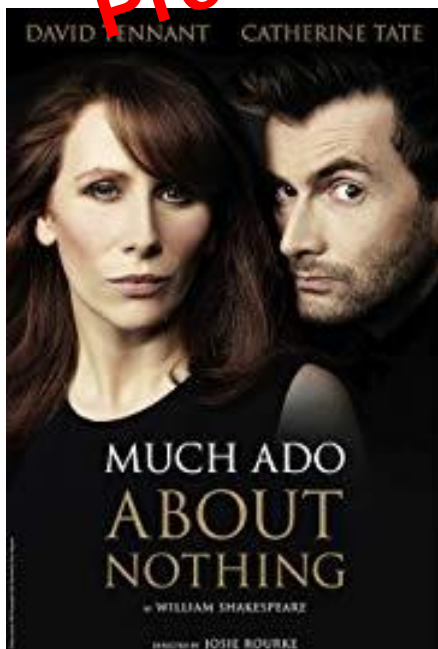


- Oxymoron

"Merry war" (1.1.27) and "hot January" (1.1.38) - this reflects the contrast seen between characters such as Beatrice and Benedick whilst reinforcing, in the case of a "hot January", the importance and strength of Beatrice's opinion on marriage. This makes her views seem extreme and therefore she stands out from the other women in the play - she is not chaste, silent or obedient.

- Metaphor

"I had rather be a canker in my hedge than a rose in his grace" - Don John says this to highlight his position as a low status character. "Canker" is a disease or illness, implying that Don John is difficult to get rid of or a nuisance to his family (he is, after all, the Bastard). This also cements his position as a difficult, disruptive character who wants to cause trouble for his brother.



- Iambic pentameter/verse

"What fire is in mine ears? Can this be true?/ Stand I condemn'd for pride and scorn so much?/ Contempt, farewell! and maiden pride, adieu!" - Here Beatrice speaks in verse to show the significance of this choice for her. It would be a massive decision for Beatrice to marry Benedick and by therefore making it rhyme, we can understand the things she would have to sacrifice to be a married woman. Iambic pentameter is also used to give the speech a heartbeat-like quality, which "makes the groundlings