

## Bitesize KS3 English Literature – Shakespeare Much Ado About Nothing – Character – Don John transcript

### DON JOHN

I cannot hide what I am: I must be sad  
when I have cause, and smile at no man's jests: eat  
when I have stomach and wait for no man's leisure: sleep  
when I am drowsy, and tend on no man's business: laugh  
when I am merry, and claw no man in his humour.

### CONRADE

Yea, but you must not make the full show of this  
till you may do it without controlment. You have of  
late stood out against your brother, and he hath  
ta'en you newly into his grace, where it is  
impossible you should take true root but by the  
fair weather that you make yourself: it is needful  
that you frame the season for your own harvest.

### DON JOHN

I had rather be a canker in a hedge,  
than a rose in his grace, and it better fits my blood to be  
disdained of all, than to fashion a carriage to rob  
love from any. In this (though I cannot be said to  
be a flattering honest man) it must not be denied  
but I am a plain-dealing villain. I am trusted with  
a muzzle and enfranchised with a clog, therefore I have decreed not  
to sing in my cage. If I had my mouth, I would bite: if I had my  
liberty, I would do my liking. In the meantime let me be that I am  
and seek not to alter me.