

Bitesize KS3 English Literature – Shakespeare

Much Ado About Nothing – Performance analysis – Rehearsing Borachio's plan to trick Claudio (The Big Scene) transcript

TITLE

THE
BIG
SCENE

PRESENTER

Hello and welcome to The Big Scene, [CAPTION-MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING] we're at rehearsals for Much Ado About Nothing.

Now, this director [CAPTION-DIRECTOR] has shown some real form in this play so far, but now she faces a real challenge.

It's [CAPTION-ACT 2, SCENE 2] act two scene two, and Borachio [CAPTION-BORACHIO] tells Don John [CAPTION DON JOHN] of his plan to Disguise [CAPTION MARGARET] Margaret as [CAPTION-HERO] Hero to convince [CAPTION-CLAUDIO] Claudio that she's been unfaithful to him. Sneaky.

It's got a little bit of everything this one, double crossing, mistaken identity and a little bit role play thrown in for good measure. It's like Saturday night round at my house, and let me tell you, if the plan's not clear you just end up with a roomful of confused people staring at you blankly, and you do not want that. She's gotta get this scene bang on.

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Here we go. Props, nice tactics, good formation.

BORACHIO

Hear me, call Margaret, Hero. Hear Margaret, call me, Claudio.
Oh, I'm sorry, is this Claudio or is it just my macchiato?

PRESENTER [OFF SCREEN]

What a mess, and boy, does it show! Baffled, bewildered, busting for a wee.

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Okay, here we go again, and as I said when I proposed to my fifth wife, if at first you don't succeed, try something else.

PRESENTER[OFF SCREEN]

Bitesize

Better delivery this time, this should get the plan across nicely.

PRESENTER

Oh dear, my six year old can draw better than that, and she is rubbish at art. Sorry Jennifer, but it's true. What a wasted opportunity.

PRESENTER [OFF SCREEN]

The pressure is really on now for the director, she's got a mountain to climb to sort this mess out, and if she doesn't, her head will be on the chopping block. Okay, it's not that serious, but you get the point.

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PRESENTER [OFF SCREEN]

Oh, great move, it's slick, it's impressive, you can see who is who and exactly where they're meant to be. The crowd will be right behind them for the rest of the play if they... oh no, the director's just remembered she's setting this back in Shakespearean times, and I'm hearing rumours that laptops weren't invented back then. Her team are quite rightly furious.

PRESENTER

Terrible display of communication by the director there, dreadful in fact. The worst display of...

DIRECTOR

Excuse me?

PRESENTER

Yes.

DIRECTOR

What's that you were saying?

PRESENTER

Just... I thought you'd been robbed. Unlucky.

DIRECTOR

Idiot.

PRESENTER

I didn't know laptops hadn't been invented then either. I really didn't.