

Bitesize KS3 English Literature – Shakespeare

Much Ado About Nothing – Language – Imagery and metaphor transcript

BENEDICK

Oh she misused me past the endurance of a block:
an oak but with one green leaf on it, would have
answered her: my very visor began to assume life, and
scold with her: she told me, not thinking I had been
myself, that I was the prince's jester, that I was
duller than a great thaw, huddling jest upon jest,
with such impossible conveyance upon me, that I stood
like a man at a mark, with a whole army shooting at
me: she speaks poniards, and every word stabs:
if her breath were as terrible as her terminations,
there were no living near her, she would infect to
the north star: I would not marry her, though she
were endowed with all that Adam had left him before
he transgressed: she would have made Hercules have
turned spit, yea, and have cleft his club to make
the fire too: come, talk not of her, you shall find
her the infernal Ate in good apparel. I would to God
some scholar would conjure her, for certainly, while
she is here, a man may live as quiet in hell, as in a
sanctuary, and people sin upon purpose, because they
would go thither, so indeed all disquiet, horror
and perturbation follows her.