**Much Ado About Nothing**

**CHARACTERS**

**Leonato**: Governor of Messina. He is duped into thinking that his beloved daughter, Hero, is unfaithful to Claudio until he realizes the truth and is reunited with her at the end of the play.

**Claudio**: A young Lord of Florence, his chief flaw is his immaturity; he tends to believe too quickly that he has been betrayed. Seemingly, he has matured by the play’s ending, when he is united with his beloved Hero.

**Don Pedro:** Prince of Aragon; he is an intelligent man, but he too is duped into thinking that all women are fickly and shallow. He is perhaps the happiest of all the characters in the play when all the deceptions caused by his villainous brother Don John are revealed.

**Benedick**: This young Lord of Padua is witty, talkative lover, fiercely adamant about never marrying despite the fact that he grows more and more in love with Beatrice every time he sees her; at the end, they represent the perfect match.

**Don John**: The villain of the play, he acknowledges his strain of evil and is seemingly obsessed with little else unless it involves making his brother, Don Pedro, unhappy.

**Balthasar**: Attendant to Don Pedro

**Borachio**: Don John’s accomplice.

**Conrade**: Another of Don John’s accomplices

**Hero**: Leonato’s beautiful daughter, beloved of Claudio. She is scorned by him when he is duped into thinking that she is unfaithful. She pretends death, and thus her “resurrection”--when Claudio realizes that she has been true—is all the more dramatic and romantic.

**Beatrice**: She is the vocal focus of the play. She wages a “merry war” with Benedick, sure that he loves her. She is right!

**Margaret**: Hero’s attendant. She is a bit of a silly girl who is ready to do almost anyone’s bidding to create a mess. She flirts with Benedick, is a terrible gossip, and apparently makes love with Borachio, but she is not a real villainess, just a simpleton.

**Ursula**: Another attendant of Hero’s.

**Dogberry**: A hilarious constable who fractures both logic and the English language. He brings the villains finally to justice, but only by accident.

**Verges**: Dogberry’s bumbling assistant.

**Friar Francis**: A quiet voice of goodness and sanity in the midst of all the romantic mix-up.