

Much Ado about Nothing*

(William Shakespeare)

*With apologies to Benedick and Beatrice!

Through reading this story, the student will be listening and responding to sensory stimuli associated with it. They will use their individual communication systems to communicate whether they want more or to finish, taking some control over their environment and engaging with the supporting adult, who will know how the student communicates.

You will need:

- Scroll of paper.
- Welcome fanfare: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sAWjwiqYd4>
- A rose, with the thorns removed.
- Wedding paraphernalia: wig; veil or other soft material; confetti.
- Fragrant flowers.
- Perfume.
- A switch to activate sounds effects; alternatively, use the YouTube links below:
 - Elvis Presley *Can't Help Falling in Love*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGJTaP6anOU>
 - Suspenseful violins:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SAKwpFdm4nA>
 - Dramatic sound effect:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cphNpqKpKc4>
 - Mendelssohn's Wedding March:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tDYMayp6Dk>
- A Christian cross.
- Toy handcuffs OR a scarf.
- A bag to contain all of the above and which the student will explore before the story begins

1. Tell the student(s) that they are going to use:
 - Their ears to listen
 - Their eyes to look
 - Their noses to smell
 - Their hands to feelAdult models pointing to each and supports the student(s) to touch their own.
2. Continue by saying we are going to listen to a story. Show each student their story bag allowing them to feel and smell saying, "*(Student's name), it's story time.*"
3. Support student(s) to feel, touch and smell the story bag as a cue to the activity.
4. Introduce the story, telling the student(s) it is a story about the journey taken by group of witches as they have fun flying through the night sky.
5. Read the story slowly, allowing time for the student(s) to lead the session by giving them time to explore.

The Story

Leonato, a powerful man, has just received a note saying that he is going to be visited by his great friend Don Pedro, who's on his way back from battle.

PLAY A WELCOME FANFARE USING A SWITCH, YOUTUBE OR MP3; EXPLORE A SCROLL OF PAPER.

Don Pedro and his friends arrive: Benedick and Claudio. Also, with the men is Don Pedro's illegitimate brother, Don John.

SHAKE HANDS WITH THE STUDENT; SAY GREETINGS "HELLO!" TO INTRODUCE EACH CHARACTER.

Claudio tells first Benedick and then Don Pedro that he would like to marry Leonato's daughter, Hero. Don Pedro says he will woo Hero for him.

EXPLORE A ROSE (WITHOUT THORNS); PLAY ELVIS PRESLEY USING YOUTUBE OR MP3

Don John tries to prevent Claudio and Hero's wedding.

'SUSPENSEFUL VIOLINS' SOUND EFFECTS USING A SWITCH, YOUTUBE OR MP3.

His servant, Borachio, says words of love to a woman dressed in Hero's clothes. From far off, Claudio thinks the girl is Hero and that she has betrayed him.

STUDENT PUTS ON A WIG; EXPLORE THE SMELL AND FEEL OF A FLOWER; SPRAY A MIST OF WOMAN'S PERFUME.

At the wedding...

THROW CONFETTI; PLAY 'MENDELSSOHN'S WEDDING MARCH' USING A SWITCH, YOUTUBE OR MP3.

... Claudio calls Hero disloyal and deceptive, and refuses to marry her.

ROCK BACKWARDS AND FORWARDS TO SUGGEST CONFLICT BETWEEN THEM; THROW FLOWERS INTO THE AIR; PLAY 'DRAMATIC SOUND EFFECT' USING A SWITCH, YOUTUBE OR MP3.

Sensory Story

Hero's friends are certain that Don John must be at the bottom of this horrible event. The Friar makes a plan: they will pretend that Hero died of shame and then Claudio will once again remember Hero fondly.

USE HANDS TO EXPLORE A CHRISTIAN CROSS – ITS SHAPE, HARD SURFACE, ETC.

Through questioning Borachio, and despite getting in an awful muddle, Dogberry and the Sexton discover that it has all been an awful trick.

PLAY WITH HANDCUFFS, PUTTING THEM ON THE STUDENT AND USING THE KEY TO UNLOCK THEM; ALTERNATIVELY, AND WITH THE STUDENT'S CONSENT, LIGHTLY BIND THE STUDENT'S WRISTS WITH A SCARF.

To make amends, Leonato tells Claudio to go to Hero's grave and mourn her publicly. Leonato continues, telling Claudio that he must marry his brother Antonio's daughter, who looks a lot like Hero.

EXPLORE AND/OR WEAR A VEIL (OR OTHER SOFT MATERIAL THAN CAN REPRESENT A WEDDING VEIL).

The day after visiting Hero's grave, and being very sad, Claudio goes to the church to marry Leonato's niece – before he has even seen her!

When his bride takes off her mask, Claudio sees that it is actually Hero!

THROW CONFETTI; PLAY 'MENDELSSOHN'S WEDDING MARCH' USING A SWITCH, YOUTUBE OR MP3.

Tell the student(s) story time is over; support them to help pack their bags as cue to the end of the session.