

**Extract from Act 4, scene 2**

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**In pairs, read this extract:**

- BENEDICK** Lady Beatrice, have you wept all this while?
- BEATRICE** Yea, and I will weep a while longer.
- BENEDICK** I will not desire that.
- BEATRICE** You have no reason: I do it freely.
- BENEDICK** Surely I do believe your fair cousin is wronged.
- BEATRICE** Ah, how much might the man deserve of me that would right her!
- BENEDICK** Is there any way to show such friendship?
- BEATRICE** A very even way, but no such friend.
- BENEDICK** May a man do it?
- BEATRICE** It is a man's office, but not yours.
- BENEDICK** I do love nothing in the world so well as you. Is not that strange?
- BEATRICE** As strange as the thing I know not. It were as possible for me to say I loved nothing so well as you. But believe me not, and yet I lie not: I confess nothing, nor I deny nothing. I am sorry for my cousin.
- BENEDICK** By my sword, Beatrice, thou lovest me.
- BEATRICE** Do not swear and eat it.
- BENEDICK** I will swear by it that you love me; and I will make him eat it that says I love not you.
- BEATRICE** Will you not eat your word?
- BENEDICK** With no sauce that can be devised to it. I protest I love thee.
- BEATRICE** Why, then, God forgive me!
- BENEDICK** What offence, sweet Beatrice?

## Much Ado About Nothing

**BEATRICE** You have stayed me in a happy hour. I was about to protest I loved *you*.

**BENEDICK** And do it with all thy heart.

**BEATRICE** I love you with so much of my heart that none is left to protest.

**BENEDICK** Come, bid me do anything for thee.

**BEATRICE** Kill Claudio.

**BENEDICK** Ha! Not for the wide world.

**BEATRICE** You kill me to deny it. Farewell.

1. Explain what has happened before this conversation takes place and what happens afterwards.
2. Discuss how you think each character is feeling. What is affecting the way they are feeling? How could they show these feelings? Make a list.
3. Now work through the scene line by line and match up some of your ideas from the list to lines in the play.
4. Read it through again, trying out your actions.