

**Warmer – Deception**

Read the text and discuss the questions.

Lies, lies, lies...

According to research, the average person tells 4 lies every day.

That means they lie 28 times a week and more than a hundred times a month.

That's over a thousand lies a year. So, what's the number one lie?

'I'm fine.'



1. Do you think that the research findings are true?
2. Why do you think people lie so much? What is their motivation?
3. How many lies have you told this week?
4. What's the biggest lie you have ever told?
5. Can you think of a situation when it's okay to tell a lie?

**Task 1 – The characters in Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing***

a. Read about the characters in the play, and answer the questions on the next page.

<p><b>Beatrice</b> is a strong, funny and clever woman. She says she doesn't ever want to have a husband, and spends a lot of time using her sharp wit to make fun of Benedick.</p> <p>Beatrice is very loyal to her cousin Hero. When she hears stories about Hero, she is shocked, and swears that they are not true. Although she is quick witted and intelligent, she is still easily fooled into thinking that Benedick is in love with her.</p>	<p><b>Benedick</b> is also in the army, and just like Beatrice, he's witty and funny and has no interest in getting married. He says that if he ever gets married that his friends should 'put him in a bottle and shoot him!' He loves to argue and make clever jokes with Beatrice.</p> <p>Benedick is gullible though, and when his friends tell him that Beatrice is in love with him, he believes them. He finally falls in love with her and marries her at the end of the play.</p>
<p><b>Claudio</b> is a young, brave and handsome soldier. He falls in love with Hero at first sight. However, he also believes lies very quickly.</p> <p>Don Pedro arranges for him to catch his fiancé Hero being unfaithful, and Claudio is deceived. He believes the lies about her and treats her very badly at the church. When Claudio thinks Hero is dead, he regrets what he did.</p>	<p>The duke's daughter, <b>Hero</b>, is from a wealthy and important family. She's Innocent and quiet, even when Claudio accuses her of being unfaithful although she denies this is true.</p> <p>After Hero pretends to be dead, Claudio admits that he was wrong to believe she was unfaithful. She marries Claudio at the end of the play but the wedding is filled with deception.</p>

1. Which characters say they don't want to get married?
2. Which characters are soldiers?
3. Which characters believe lies?
4. Which character is unhappy about their actions?
5. Which character is blamed for something they didn't do?
6. Who falls in love straight away? Who with?
7. Who gets married?
8. Which character defends another character? Why?

b. Read the texts about the characters again. Circle all the words that are linked with truth or lies.

### Task 2 – The plot of *Much Ado About Nothing*

Read a summary of the plot. With a partner, discuss how many lies you can find in the play.

#### A summary of *Much Ado About Nothing*

After Don Pedro wins a war against his half-brother Don John, he and his soldiers arrive in the beautiful city of Messina to stay with a wealthy and powerful duke. One of his Don Pedro's soldiers, Claudio, falls in love with the duke's daughter, Hero, and they decide to get married.

For a joke, Hero and a group of her friends decide to trick her sarcastic cousin Beatrice that another soldier, Benedick, is in love with her. Don Pedro also decides to trick Benedick that Beatrice is in love with him. He also wants to have a bit of fun at his friend's expense and thinks that Benedick needs to get married.

Don John, who lost the war, wants to spoil the wedding and he tricks Don Pedro and Claudio into believing that Hero has been unfaithful before the wedding. Claudio refuses to marry Hero on her wedding day and publicly insults her. Filled with grief, Hero's family pretend that she is dead in the hope the truth will come to the surface. Soon enough they find out that she was innocent and Claudio feels very bad about his actions.

To compensate for his actions, Claudio agrees to marry someone else but he is not allowed to see her face at the wedding. Claudio gets married without seeing who the bride is and then, he is amazed with joy when he discovers that the woman is in fact Hero and he has already married her. Happily, Beatrice and Benedick actually fall in love and at the end of the play she accepts his marriage proposal.

Comment [AC1]: Lovely task – absolutely in line with the theme of the lesson

Comment [CS2]: ok

Comment [AC3]: 3=a

**Task 3 – Motivation**

Read the plot again and match the liars with the motivation.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hero lies to her cousin Beatrice and Don Pedro lies to Benedick...</li> <li>2. Don John tells lies about Hero...</li> <li>3. Hero deceives everyone by pretending to be dead...</li> <li>4. Claudio feels guilty...</li> <li>5. Claudio is deceived about who he marries at the end of the play...</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. because he wants to stop Hero and Claudio getting married.</li> <li>b. to make up for believing the lies about Hero.</li> <li>c. for their own amusement.</li> <li>d. so that they can find out if she is innocent.</li> <li>e. because he treated Hero badly.</li> </ol> |
|---|---|

**Comment [AC4]:** A lovely idea for a task, but at the moment it's much too hard. I think I can do 1 and 3 (see above, although we have different answers for 1). But there's no hint as to the other characters' motivations. Can you make this more explicit in the text please, but ideally without the text and questions resembling each other so closely (e.g. *wants to spoil the wedding* occurs verbatim in item and text)

**Task 4 – Reading a scene**

a. Look at this picture from a film of *Much Ado About Nothing*. What are the characters holding, and how do you think this is important in the plot?



**Comment [AC5]:** This isn't really a 'task' as such, as the Ss aren't challenged to do anything, (especially if they end up watching it). I suggest incorporating Task 5 into Task 4 & making it c.

Benedick (played by Kenneth Branagh) and Beatrice (Emma Thompson) in the 1993 film of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*

b. *In pairs, read this scene from Much Ado About Nothing, and find out what Beatrice and Benedick are holding, and why*

BENEDICK Which is Beatrice?

BEATRICE [*Unmasking*] I answer to that name. What is your will?

BENEDICK Do not you love me?

BEATRICE Why, no; no more than reason.

BENEDICK Why, then your uncle and the prince and Claudio have been deceived; they swore you did.

BEATRICE Do not you love me?

BENEDICK Troth, no; no more than reason.

BEATRICE Why, then my cousin Margaret and Ursula are much deceived; for they did swear you did.

BENEDICK They swore that you were almost sick for me.

BEATRICE They swore that you were well-nigh dead for me.

BENEDICK 'Tis no such matter. Then you do not love me?

BEATRICE No, truly, but in friendly recompense.

LEONATO Come, cousin, I am sure you love the gentleman.

CLAUDIO And I'll be sworn upon't that he loves her; For here's a paper written in his hand, A halting sonnet of his own pure brain, Fashion'd to Beatrice.

HERO And here's another, Writ in my cousin's hand, stolen from her pocket, Containing her affection unto Benedick.

BENEDICK A miracle! here's our own hands against our hearts. Come, I will have thee; but, by this light, I take thee for pity.

BEATRICE I would not deny you; but, by this good day, I yield upon great persuasion; and partly to save your life, for I was told you were in a consumption.

BENEDICK Peace! I will stop your mouth. [*Kissing her*]

Glossary

troth – truth

well-nigh – nearly

recompense - compensate

halting sonnet – poem

affection – love

thee – you

yield – give in

in a consumption - sick

c. Are these questions about the scene TRUE or FALSE?

1. Claudio claimed that Beatrice was in love with Benedick.
2. Beatrice’s cousins told her that Benedick disliked her.
3. Claudio wrote a love poem about Beatrice.
4. Beatrice wrote a love poem about Benedick.
5. Benedick and Beatrice feel sorry for each other.
6. At the end, Beatrice and Benedick kiss.

**Comment [AC6]:** Can this be made either T or F?

**Comment [CS7]:** agreed

**Comment [AC8]:** 7 & 8 are problematic because they’re both double-propositions, so if one is true and the other false, then the statement is partly true and partly false, and we want nice, clean unambiguous black and white answers for these questions

**Comment [AC9]:** I’d take the focus away from the play itself for this final task, as Ss might be much ado-ed out by now. You could suggest that T asks and leads a short discussion on q1 and q2, but even that might be too difficult, as you’d have to know the plot intimately in order to give a full answer. Q3-5 are nice though, although 3 and 4 do overlap too mcu at the mo..

**Task 6 – Discussion**

Read the situations. Discuss whether you think it is ‘acceptable’ or ‘unacceptable’ to lie in these situations.

1. A child who lies to his mother that he likes the food she cooks... even though what she cooks is terrible!
2. A husband who lies to his wife that he is working late at the office when really, he is watching football with his friends.
3. A teacher who lies to her students saying that they are learning English very well when, in fact, they are not learning very fast at all.
4. A worker who lies to their boss that they were late because the traffic was very bad. In fact, they overslept.
5. A wife who lies to her husband that she loves the new shoes he bought her when, really, she thinks they look awful and she will never wear them.

