

# Love and War in Much Ado About Nothing

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I. Elements warmup – Earth, water, fire, air

Question – What element is love? What about war?

Team building - Find a partner about your size. Stand back to back, heel to heel, and try to sit down smoothly in one fluid motion. Sense your partner's needs and your own. Then once down, try to stand up together (anyone with back problems may sit out).

Face-off – Find a new partner. Stand close facing each other, palms together. Try to knock the other off balance without losing your own balance. The person forced to take a step loses.

**Question** – What do love and war have in common?

What do these different games have in common? Differences?

Ball toss – toss to the person across from you in circle *after* making eye contact. Go till everyone tosses it. Next say “Love” as tossing the ball to someone. Say “War” as tossing the ball.

Question – How is this a metaphor for love? For war?

II. Shape of an emotion – form your body into a shape to represent the emotions or mental states I will say: disdain, hope, disloyal, sick, love, spite. (all from the play – many others possible, of course)

III. Walking the text - next, count off by twos and separate into two lines. I'll give you a slip of paper with two lines on it – ones have the top line, twos have the bottom line (Two copies of the quotations cut up and placed into separate envelopes. Leave the paired quotations together on one slip of paper, and put one of each in the envelopes. Only use the number of sets as you have partners, because the quotations are paired).

Walk the space, saying your line – chew it, whisper it, shout it, play with pauses and pace. When I clap once – partner with anyone and share your lines however you'd like. Clap again – walk.

Say line to galleries, to groundlings, to heavens, to hell.

Three claps – stop and circle up.

**Question** – What loving relationships are in “Much Ado”? Warring? Are any both?

IV. Experiment with lines and purposeful delivery:

Circle up. Say your line to someone else in the circle – eye to eye. At last word, toss the ball to that person – make sure you’ve connected. First send the most important word in your line to that person. Next, deliver the whole line. The receiver sends to someone else, but try to react to the line you were passed.

Five + balls – one person in the middle, balls in the hands of those in the circle. The middle person calls (gestures) for the ball and the line, then says his line and tosses to someone else like stick game. )Drawing out)

**Question** - How is it different to send instead of receive? Deliver or be drawn out?

Wrap-up: Finally, separate into ones and twos - facing lines in order of the quotation numbers so that everyone has their partner across from them (each pair of quotations is numbered). Say the lines in order, first one, then two.

**Question** – Who is your character?  
Is he/she a lover or a warrior?