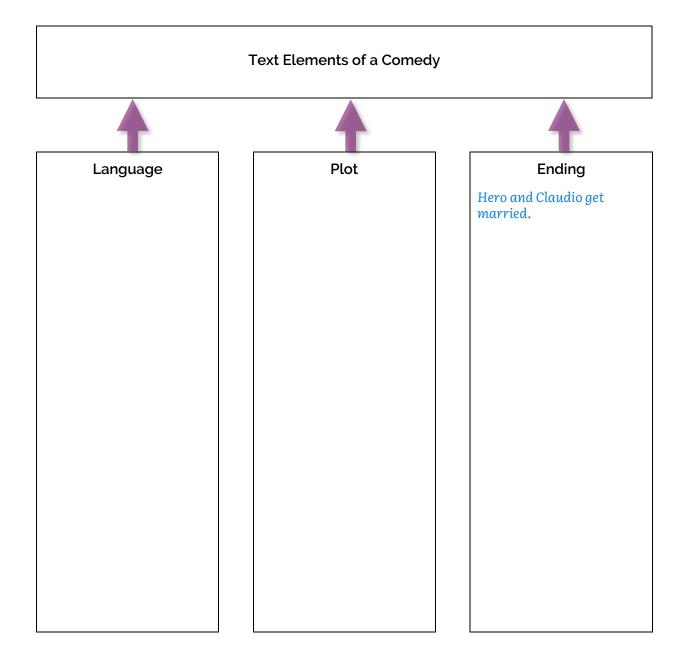
Much Ado About Nothing Elements of Comedy

Although today the comedy genre can refer to any piece of art that is funny, a comedy written by William Shakespeare contained specific elements. In brief, a comedy is one of Shakespeare's dramatic works that has an amusing tone, creates comic effects, and generally ends well. Shakespeare's language in a comedy creates a light-hearted tone and features wordplay, puns, and figurative speech. The plot revolves around misconceptions and deceptions, the struggles of young lovers, and mistaken identities or characters in disguise. The happy ending involves a wedding.

As you read *Much Ado About Nothing*, note down the elements that reveal that the play is a comedy. After finishing the play and completing the chart, respond to the prompt below.





Prompt

A tragicomedy is a play that makes use of elements from both comedies and tragedies (which are serious plays with unhappy endings). For instance, a tragicomedy could be a serious play with funny moments or a happy ending, or a comic play that ends in the characters' deaths. Do you think *Much Ado About Nothing* is a tragicomedy? Discuss this idea, citing specific parts of the text to support your answer.

RL.11-12.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

RL.11-12.3 Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).

RL.11-12.5 Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).

SL.11-12.1 Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 11-12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.