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| **Characteristics** | **Point** | **Quotation** |  |  |
| **Likes men but never wants to marry one** | Describes love and marriage very negatively but can be positive about men. | Bea:***I had rather hear my dog bark…than a man swear he loves me***(I,i)She will sit in heaven with ***the bachelors***and be ***merry*** (II,i) | **Context**She is one of many very feisty women in the comedies. Like, say, Rosalind in ‘As You Like It’ she is the intellectual equal (if not better!) of the men around her. Even though she ends up married it is to a man who loves her because of her spirit and independence. Hero is closer to how noblewomen were supposed to behave in Shakespeare’s time, but audiences love Beatrice the most. | **Beatrice *voyager through life or blessed*** |
| **Has a “merry war” with Benedick, perhaps because he hurt her in the past** | Insults Benedick every chance she gets | ***Signor Mountanto***(I,i) ***a very dull fool***(II.i)***He won* [my heart] *with false dice***(II,i) |
| **Independent and funny, perhaps because she has no father** | Doesn’t play by the ‘rules’ which governed most women then (see Hero) and often criticises those rules. | Antonio calls her **too curst** (II,1) and when Don Pedro asks **Will you have me, Lady?** she says **No, my lord** (II,i) |
| **Is easily gulled into loving Benedick** | Once her friends confront her with her “carping” she realises he is worthy of her after all | **I will requite thee** and **bind our loves up in a holy band** (III,i) |
| **Language**Despite her status she speaks almost always in prose which reflects her independence and ease with herself. Only at her wedding does she break into blank verse. |
| **Fiercely loyal to Hero** | Early on she reminds Hero that she can say no to her father if she doesn’t like the man he picks for herAfter Claudio humiliates Hero, Beatrice’s anger is very strong | **Make curtsey and say, father, as it please me** (II,i)She tells Benedick to **Kill Claudio**. If she **were a man…I would eat his heart in the market place** because he **slandered, scorned, dishonoured my kinswoman** (IV,i) |
| **Stagecraft**She uses the masked ball as a means to insult Benedick to his face. Her gulling and teasing scenes mirror Benedick’s. |
| **Loves Benedick, but still jokes with him** | As they marry she says she is only doing it to save his life | **I yield upon great persuasion…partly to save your life** (V,iv) |