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| **Characteristics** | **Point** | **Quotation** |  |  |
| **Says very little** | Unless directly questioned by them, she says almost nothing when near men, even when she is being accused of things she is innocent of | She has one brief line in Act One! | **Context**  In many ways the archetypal ‘good woman’ of the times. She does exactly what men tell her to do and rarely expresses an opinion, even when under great stress. Her name reminds us of *Hero and Leander*, the story of a woman whose loss of virginity lead to her tragic death. | **Hero *Reminds us of Hero and Leander*** |
| **More garrulous when alone with women** | She plays an active part in the gulling of Beatrice  Speaks her mind about her wedding dress | **God defend me, how I am beset!** (IV,i)  **Some Cupid kills with arrows, some with traps** (III,i)  **My cousin’s a fool…I’ll wear none but this** (III,iv) |
| **Her physical actions/reactions are often misconstrued** | Claudio’s accusations make her blush out of shock and embarrassment, and her father’s reactions make her faint. | Claudio: **Her blush is guiltiness, not modesty** (IV,i)  Leonato: **Hath no man’s dagger here a point for me? [*Hero faints*]** |
| **Language**  A brilliant contrast to Beatrice. Hero rarely speaks and when she does is polite. Her only long speeches are in the gulling scene which is written in blank verse. She is shocked by Margaret’s bawdy language in III,iv. |
| **Does whatever men tell her to do, and puts up with cruel behaviour from men who supposedly love her** | She agrees to marry whomever Leonato chooses for her  Leonato says very spiteful things about how he feels dishonoured by her  Is happy to marry Claudio even though he treated her appallingly | Leonato: **Daughter…if the prince do solicit you…you know your answer** (II,i)  Leonato: **Do not live, Hero, do not ope thine eyes** (IV,i)  Claudio: **I am your husband if you like of me** Hero: **When I lived I was your other wife** (V,iv) |
| **Stagecraft**  Margaret dressing/acting like her and answering to her name are a pivotal plot point. Her fainting after the accusations is also dramatic: She doesn’t say much but she is important dramatically. |
| **Happy ending?** | She ends up how most women of the time would have liked: married to a handsome, successful man. However, it’s unclear whether this union will be as happy and equal as the one between Bea and Ben.  Claudio agrees to marry a Hero’s ‘cousin’ to appease Leonato. What kind of a man marries a stranger so as not to upset her uncle?! | Leonato: **Give her the right you should have given her cousin and so dies my revenge** Claudio: **Oh noble sir! I do embrace your offer** (V,i) |