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| **Characteristics** | **Point** | **Quotation** |  |  |
| **A lover, not a fighter****More interested in wealth and status than in true love?** | He didn’t think much of Hero before the war, but now he sees her very differently.He is keen to know how big her inheritance from Leonato is likely to beIs horrified by the idea that Hero might have had sex with another man, and is quite happy when she ‘dies’When Leonato accuses him of killing Hero he shrugs it off | **I looked upon her with a soldier’s eye [but now] war thoughts have left their places vacant, in their rooms come thronging soft and delicate desires** (I,i)To Don Pedro: **Hath Leonato any son, my Lord?** (I,i)**Leonato…give not this rotten orange to your friend…[this] approved wanton** (IV,i)**My villainy?..Away, I will not have to do with you** (V,i) | **Context**The Hero/Claudio story is likely to have been familiar to audiences then; Shakespeare ‘borrowed’ the plot from Italian versions popular at the time.Shakespeare’s audience might have had more sympathy for Claudio than modern ones. At the time women’s virginity was highly prized and so his reaction to learning she is a ‘rotten orange’ would have chimed with many people at the time. | **Claudio *lame or crippled*** |
| **Gives up easily and is very gullible** | He believes Don John that Don Pedro is wooing Hero and walks awayFalls for Don Jon’s plan to discredit Hero based on very little evidence | **The prince woos for himself…farewell, therefore, Hero** (II,i)**Hero can blot out Hero’s virtue…I’ll lock up all the gates of love** (IV,i) |
| **Language**He speaks beautiful poetry to Don Pedro in I,I when describing his love for Hero and again when condemning her in IV,I. At less serious moments he uses lighter prose. |
| **Capable of guilt and remorse** | He is quick to accept blame when he learns the truth about HeroHe accepts whatever punishment Leonato cares to give him | After Borachio’s confession Claudio says **I have drunk poison whiles he uttered it** (V,i)**Choose your revenge yourself, Impose me to what penance your invention can lay upon my sin** (V,i) |
| **Stagecraft**He is often seen ‘noting’ things wrongly because he can’t fully see or hear what is going on, both at the masked ball and the night before his wedding. |
| **Happy ending** | He ends up married to an attractive woman who forgives even the most awful behaviour and whose father is incredibly rich! | **Another Hero?** (V,iv) |