

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HERO AND CLAUDIO

(Extract from Shakespeare's "Much Ado about Nothing" (Act II, Scene 1))

Don Pedro: Hey! What's wrong with you? Why are you sad?

Claudio: Not sad, my Lord!

Don Pedro: What is it then? Are you sick?

Claudio: I am not sick either, my Lord.

Beatrice: The count (Graf) is neither sad nor sick, nor merry (heiter), nor well: but he is very jealous (eifersüchtig)! He even seems a little yellow ;)

Don Pedro: Oh, you seem to be right, lady! And I could swear he is jealous. But then he is wrong! – Here, Claudio, I wooed (warb um) Hero for you and won her! I have broke with (eingeweih't) her father and he agreed. Now you only have to say when you want to marry her! God give you joy!

Leonato: Count (Graf), take my daughter and with her my fortunes.

Beatrice: Speak, count, it's your cue (Stichwort)!

Claudio: When one is so happy, it is best to be silent! If I could still talk, I wouldn't be so very happy! – Lady, as you are mine, I am yours; I give away myself for you!

Beatrice: Speak, cousin, or if you cannot, stop his mouth with a kiss, so that he can't speak either!

Claudio and Hero speak apart.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What does Claudio feel at the beginning of the scene?
2. Is he right to feel so?
3. Beatrice says Claudio seems yellow because of his jealousy. Name four other comparisons that belong to emotions and explain them.
4. Why does Claudio say that it is good, that he is silent?
5. At the end of the scene, what could Claudio and Hero say to each other. Write a short dialogue!