***Love’s Labour’s Lost***

1. i. The king and his courtiers take oaths; Costard is arrested by Dull.

ii. Armado is in love; Costard is in custody.

1. i. The princess and her ladies arrive; the king and courtiers fall in love.
2. i. Armado and Berowne give Costard letters.
3. i. Princess and ladies get maid’s letter.

ii. Holofernes and Nathaniel read Rosaline’s letter.

iii. One by one, the four lords are forsworn.

1. i. Armado, Holofernes, Nathaniel, Costard, and Moth will present the Nine Worthies.

ii. The ladies receive favors and letters; learning of the lords’ disguises, they mask;

the lords woo the wrong ladies; returning as themselves, they are met with ridicule;

they then ridicule the Nine Worthies piece; Costard accuses Armado of impregnating

the maid; the Princess learns of her father’s death and of the lords’ seriousness;

she and her ladies enjoin a year’s wait on the king and his courtiers.

Notes

The play is as much about language and learning (and about the role of language and learning in life) as it is about love.

One consequence of this preoccupation with language and learning is that the play is full of wordplay and allusions, so that it is a difficult play for us to read.