

Brief Questions in Measure For Measure

Writer: William Shakespeare | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

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- **What are the chief sources of Measure for Measure?**

Ans:

The story comes from Cinthio's Hecatommithi and Whetstone's Promos and Cassandra.

- **Whom is Lucio forced to marry?**

Ans:

Lucio is forced to marry Kate Keepdown, whom he made pregnant.

- **Who replaces Isabella in the "bed-trick" with Angelo?**

Ans:

Mariana replaces Isabella in the "bed-trick" with Angelo.

- **Who asks Isabella to surrender her body to save her brother's life?**

Ans:

Angelo asks Isabella to sacrifice her body to save Claudio.

- **Who says, "We must not make a scarecrow of the law"?**

Ans:

Angelo says these words.

- **How does Lucio behave toward the Duke in disguise?**

Ans:

Lucio mocks and criticizes the Duke disguised as a friar.

- **Why does Lucio condemn Angelo?**

Ans:

Lucio condemns Angelo for being too harsh and severe.

- **Who is Barnardine?**

Ans:

Barnardine is a prisoner and a murderer.

- **What judgment is passed on Barnardine by the Duke?**

Ans:

The Duke pardons Barnardine at the end.

- **What is the final judgment on Angelo?**

Ans:

Angelo is pardoned by the Duke.

- **How does Ragozine die?**

Ans:

Ragozine dies from a fever.

- **Who says, “An Angelo for Claudio, death for death”?**

Ans:

The Duke says these words during the trial.

- **What punishment does Lucio suffer?**

Ans:

Lucio must marry Kate Keepdown and is punished by the Duke.

- **Why does the Duke take the disguise of a friar?**

Ans:

He disguises himself to observe Angelo's rule in secret.

- **Why does Claudio fail to marry Juliet?**

Ans:

Claudio cannot marry Juliet because her dowry is held by relatives.

1. How does Escalus plead on behalf of Claudio?

Ans:

Escalus asks Angelo to show mercy to Claudio.

- **Why are Pompey and Froth arrested by Elbow?**

Ans:

Pompey is arrested for pimping and Froth for visiting a brothel.

- **What, according to Isabella, is tyrannical for a man of power?**

Ans:

She says it is tyrannical to misuse power like a giant.

- **How does Isabella define mercy?**

Ans:

Isabella says mercy suits a ruler better than authority.

- **How does Claudio express his fear of death?**

Ans:

Claudio fears his body will rot and his soul suffer after death.

- **How was Mariana's dowry lost?**

Ans:

Her dowry was lost in a shipwreck.

- **What is the Duke's plan of the "bed-trick"?**

Ans:

The Duke plans that Mariana will take Isabella's place with Angelo.

- **When does the Duke sentence Angelo to death?**

Ans:

The Duke sentences Angelo after revealing his deceit and cruelty.

- **When does the Duke withdraw Angelo's death sentence?**

Ans:

He cancels it when Claudio is shown to be alive.

- **What punishment is imposed upon Lucio by the Duke?**

Ans:

Lucio must marry Kate Keepdown and is spared from whipping.

- **What judgment is passed upon Claudio by the Duke?**

Ans:

The Duke forgives Claudio and asks him to marry Juliet.

- **What proposal does the Duke make to Isabella?**

Ans:

The Duke proposes marriage to Isabella.

- **What is Shakespeare's message in Measure for Measure?**

Ans

: Shakespeare teaches that justice must be tempered with mercy.

- **What is the name of the hangman in Measure for Measure?**

Ans:

His name is Abhorson.

- **What is the literal meaning of the title "Measure for Measure"?**

Ans:

It means justice for justice, or punishment for sin.

- **Why is Claudio given the death sentence?**

Ans:

Claudio is punished for making Juliet pregnant before marriage.

- **Whose severed head is shown to Angelo?**

Ans:

The Provost shows Angelo the head of Ragozine.

- **Whom does Isabella call a “Virgin violator”?**

Ans:

Isabella calls Angelo a “Virgin violator.”

- **Who is Mistress Overdone?**

Ans:

Mistress Overdone is a brothel keeper in Vienna.

- **Why is Claudio imprisoned?**

Ans:

Claudio is jailed for having sex before marriage.

- **Who is appointed the deputy of Duke Vincentio?**

Ans:

Lord Angelo is made the Duke’s deputy.

- **What type of comedy is Measure for Measure?**

Ans:

It is a tragi-comedy or problem play.

- **Why was Claudio imprisoned?**

Ans:

Claudio was imprisoned for fornication with Juliet.

- **How does Isabella threaten Angelo?**

Ans:

She threatens to expose his evil plan publicly.

- **What is the main theme of Measure for Measure?**

Ans:

The main theme is justice balanced with mercy.

- **What plea does Isabella make to the Duke?**

Ans:

She accuses Angelo of deceiving her and breaking his promise.

LxNotes