The thought tunnel is a drama technique that can be used to explore a character’s thoughts and feelings.

The pupils form two lines opposite each other - they could do this as they enter the classroom, perhaps forming a corridor from the door.

One pupil, acting in character (in this instance as Leonato), walks down the space in the middle as the pupils either side speak aloud this character’s ‘thoughts’.

This activity works well if pupils are prepped one lesson and form the tunnel as they come into the room for the next lesson as they then have their ‘thought’ prepared. The last person to enter the room is then the character who walks down the middle.

The slips below are suggested thoughts to be spoken aloud as a way of looking at a character’s different reactions to the events in the scene. After walking through the tunnel, the character could be asked to explain the thoughts and feelings they have experienced.

This activity can be developed by asking pupils to think of their own thoughts for another character.

The Friar thinks Hero is innocent and he is a wise, good man.

If it proves to be true I would rather she really was dead.

This has brought shame on our family.

Claudio seemed to be a good man and yet after his behaviour at the wedding... I feel I cannot forgive him.

What shall become of this?

If the plan does not work we must take Hero to a convent.
Benedick is being a great support and says we must listen to the Friar.

The Friar says she must die to live and we must keep up an appearance of mourning.

The Friar thinks his plan will turn slander into remorse.

Claudio will realise what he has lost.

I feel so angry. I want to defend the family’s honour.

I would have been less ashamed if she was a beggar’s child, not my own flesh and blood.

I don’t know if anything can wash away her sin!

Would the two princes lie? Would Claudio? Would Don Pedro?

If they speak the truth these hands will tear her!

If they are wrong I will defend her honour! I know I am old but I’ll fight them anyway.

When Beatrice said she had not been with Hero that night I thought it confirmed Hero’s guilt.