

Shakespeare's Famous Lines:

Use the quotes provided below to put together new, improvised scenes:

- cut them up and draw from a hat at random.
- or perhaps put them into groups and assign a line from each category - opening lines, lines of love, insults and closing lines.
- it will work best if students memorize the lines and are able to improvise new lines (of a Shakespearean sounding sort).
- the exercise is for fun - to take pleasure in the words Shakespeare has given to the English language.
- encourage them to add in sword fights (mime), balcony scenes, betrayal, mistaken identity, jealousy and madness - all elements of the best plays.

Famous Opening Lines

"In delivering my son from me, I bury a second husband." (All's Well That ends Well)

"In sooth, I know not why I am so sad." (Merchant of Venice)

"I wonder how the King escaped our hands." (Henry IV)

"Who's there?" (Hamlet)

"Hence! Home, you idle creatures, get you home." (Julius Caesar)

"When shall we three meet again In thunder, lightning or in rain?"
(Macbeth)

"Boatswain!" (The Tempest)

"Now is the winter of our discontent made glorious summer by this son of York." (Richard III)

"If music be the food of love , play on; Give me excess of it, that, surfeiting, The appetite may sicken, and so die." (Twelfth Night)

Famous Words of Love

"I dedicate myself to your sweet pleasure." (Cymbeline)

"By'r lady, your ladyship is nearer to heaven than when I saw you last." (Hamlet)

"I love you more than words can wield the matter, dearer then eye-sight, space and liberty." (King Lear)

"Fair thoughts and happy hours attend on you." (Merchant of Venice)

"O, how ripe in show thy lips, those kissing cherries, tempting grow." (A Midsummer Night's Dream)

"I love you with so much of my heart that none is left to protest." (Much Ado About Nothing)

"I burn, I pine, I perish." (The Taming of the Shrew)

"How like a dream is this I see and hear! Love, lend me patience to forbear awhile." (Two Gentlemen of Verona)

Famous Insults

"More of your conversation would infect my brain." (Coriolanus)

"Away! Thou art poison to my blood." (Cymbeline)

"Hang yourself, you muddy conger, hang yourself!" (Henry IV)

"He is deformed, crooked, old, and sere,
Ill faced, worse bodied, shapeless everywhere;
Vicious, ungentle, foolish, blunt, unkind;
Stigmatical in making, worse in mind." (The Comedy of Errors)

"Why, thou clay-brained guts, thou knotty-pated fool, thou whoreson
obscene greasy tallow-catch." (Henry IV)

"Thou art a boil, A plague-sore, an embossed carbuncle In my corrupted
blood." (King Lear)

"Let's meet as little as we can." (As You Like It)

"I had rather hear my dog bark at a crow than a man swear he loves me."
(Much Ado About Nothing)

"Come, you are a tedious fool." (Measure for Measure)

"You secret, black and midnight hags." (Macbeth)

"Thou lump of foul deformity." (Richard III)

"Away, you 3 inch fool." (Taming of the Shrew)

"Would thou wert clean enough to spit upon!" (Timon of Athens)

"Thou sodden-witted lord! Thou hast no more brain than I have in mine elbows." (Troilus and Cressida)

"If you spend word for word with me, I shall make your wit bankrupt." (Two Gentlemen of Verona)

Famous Last Words

"Et tu, Brute! Then fall, Caesar." (Julius Caesar)

"No, no, the drink, the drink, - O my dear Hamlet, - The drink, the drink! I am poison'd" (Hamlet)

"Now my spirit is going; I can no more." (Antony and Cleopatra)

"I kiss'd thee ere I kill'd thee: no way but this; Killing myself, to die upon a kiss." (Othello)

"The rest is silence." (Hamlet)

"Lay on, MacDuff, and damn'd be him that first cries, "Hold, enough!" (Macbeth)

"A plague o' both your houses! They have made worm's meat of me: I have it, and soundly too: your houses!" (Romeo & Juliet)

"A horse! A horse! My kingdom for a horse!" (Henry IV)