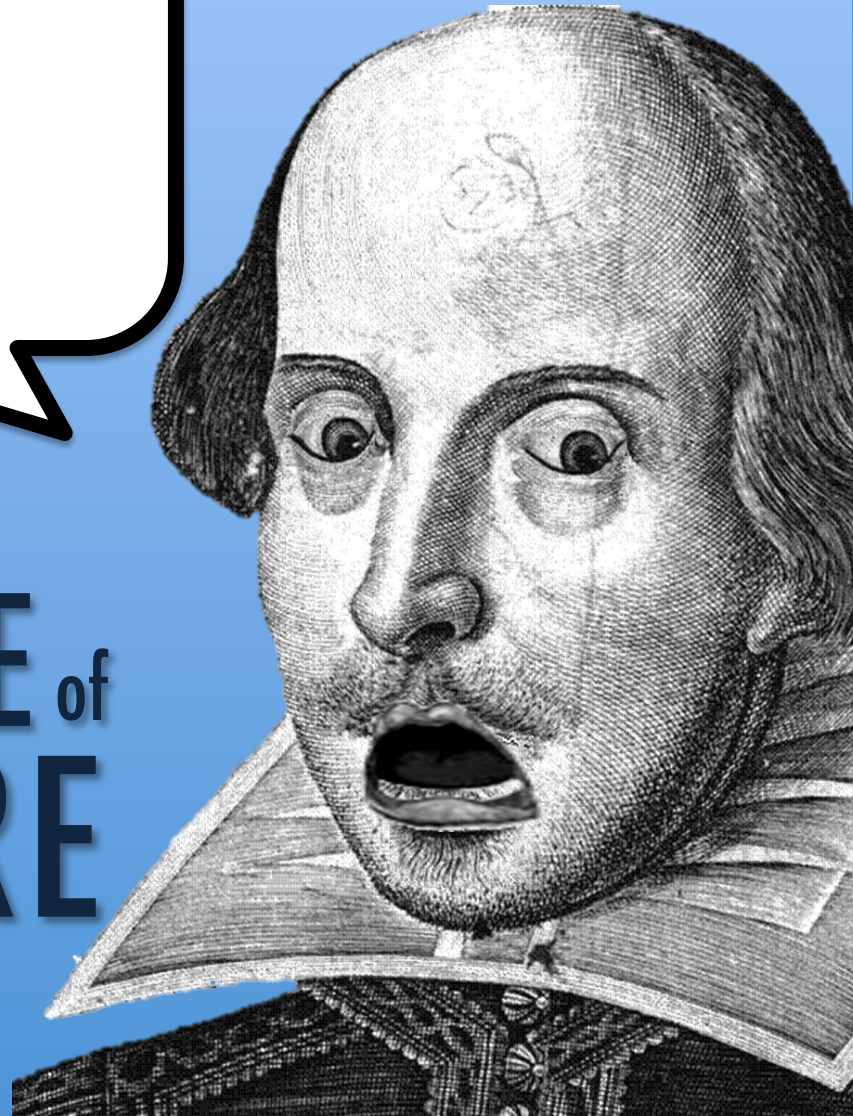


Sayest
thou
what?!

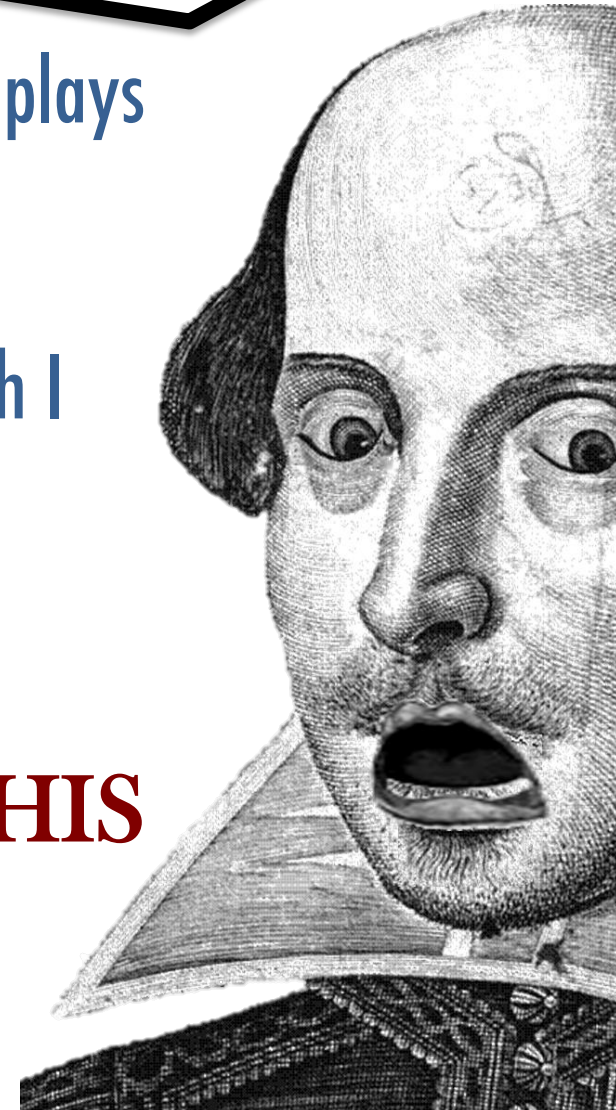
an **INTRODUCTION**
to the **LANGUAGE** of
SHAKESPEARE



Why dost thou hate me?

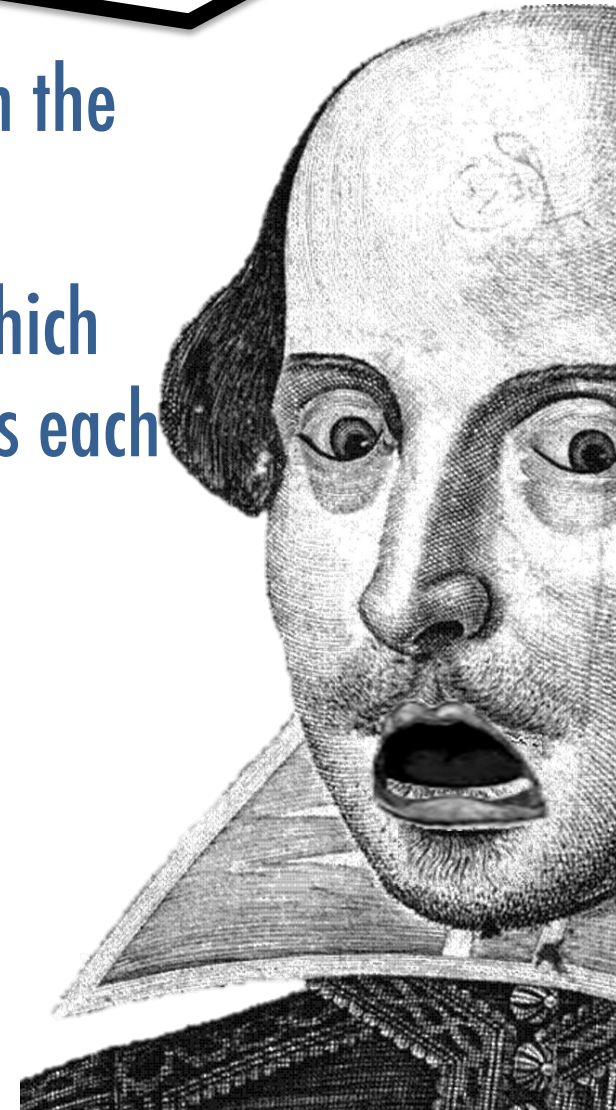
- Greatest obstacle between Shakespeare's plays and students is the unfamiliar language
- The language he used is referred to as Elizabethan English, after Queen Elizabeth I who ruled during his time
- Different from modern-day English, it is a challenge for even the best readers!

**YE SHALL OVERCOME THIS
CHALLENGE!**



Iambic pentameter ne'er doth go out of style!

- Shakespeare wrote his poems and plays in the style of **iambic pentameter**.
- This is a pattern of rhythm, or **meter**, in which most lines contain five unstressed syllables each followed by a stressed syllable
- His plays were written in **blank verse**, or unrhymed lines of iambic pentameter



Iambic Pentameter Example

u / u / u / u / u /

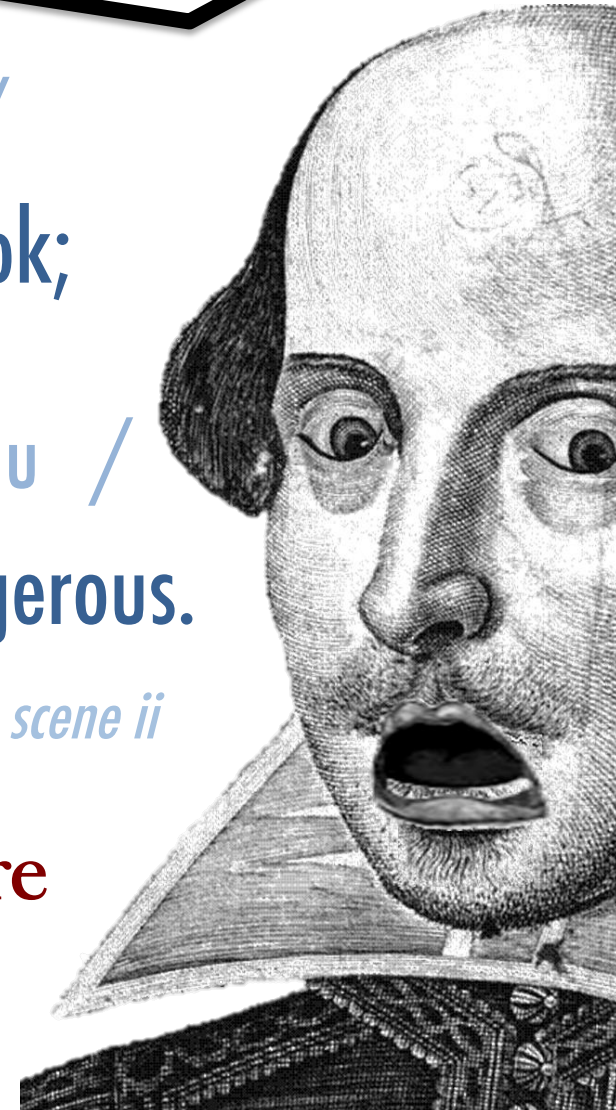
Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry look;

u / u / u / u / u /

He thinks too much, such men are dangerous.

From Julius Caesar, Act I, scene ii

Canst thou imagine writing an entire
play in this style?



Shortn'd wi' contractions

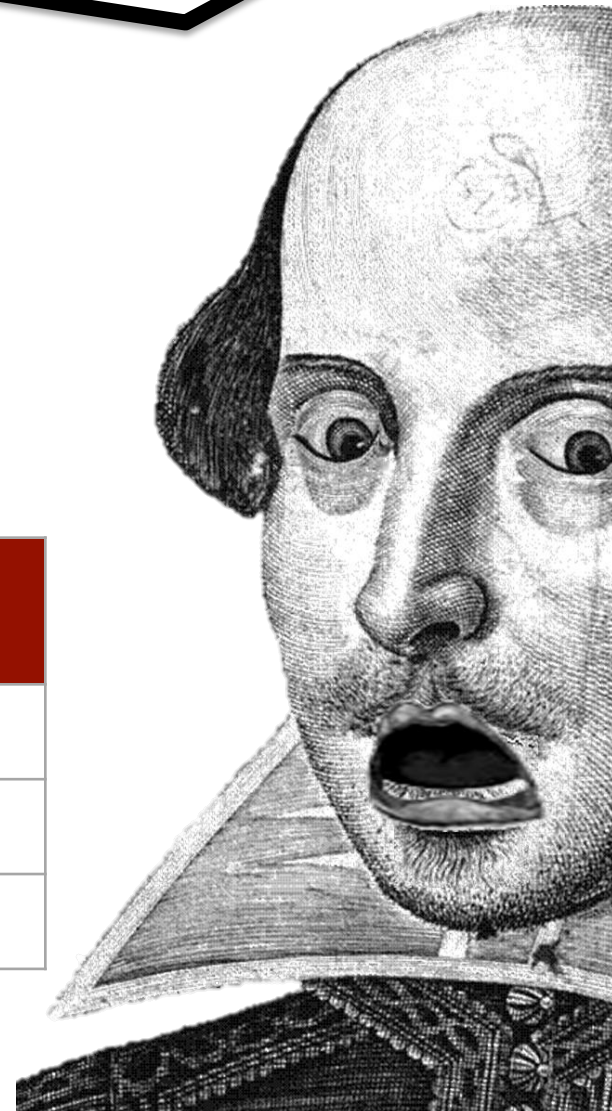
- Shakespeare uses many contractions, particularly to maintain iambic pentameter
- Examples:
 - wi'=with
 - e'en=even
 - e'er=ever
 - ne'er=never
 - 'tis=it is
 - 'twas=it was



Fear not, thy thee's and thou's

- Thee and thou = you
- Thy = your
- Follows a pattern:

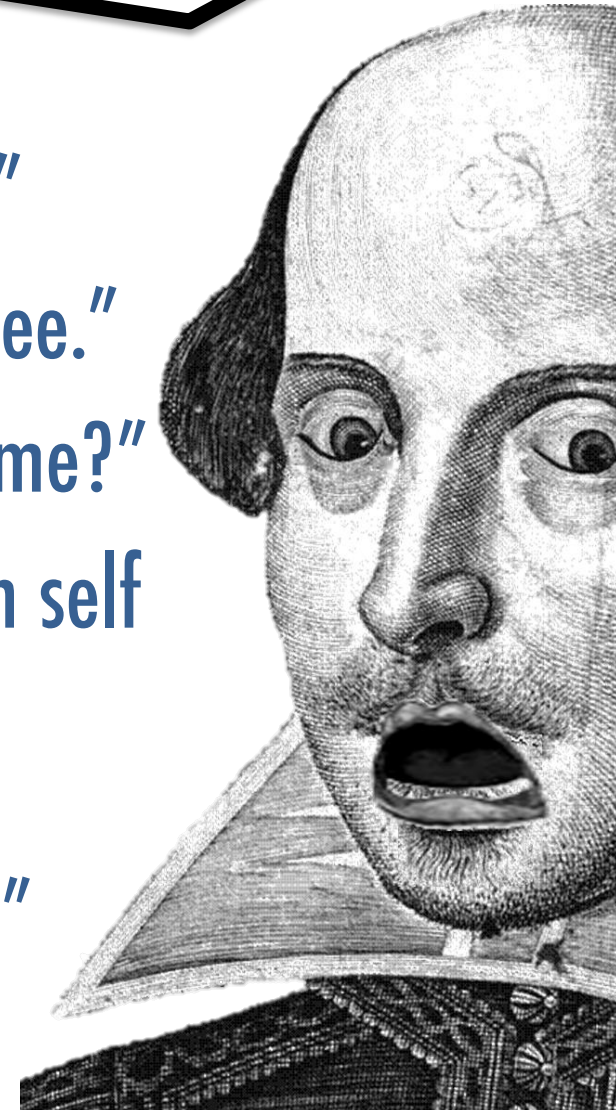
	Subject	Object	Possessive Adjective	Possessive Pronoun
	You	You	Your	Yours
Singular	Thou	Thee	Thy	Thine
Plural	Ye	You	Yours	Yours



Fear not, thy thee's and thou's

Examples:

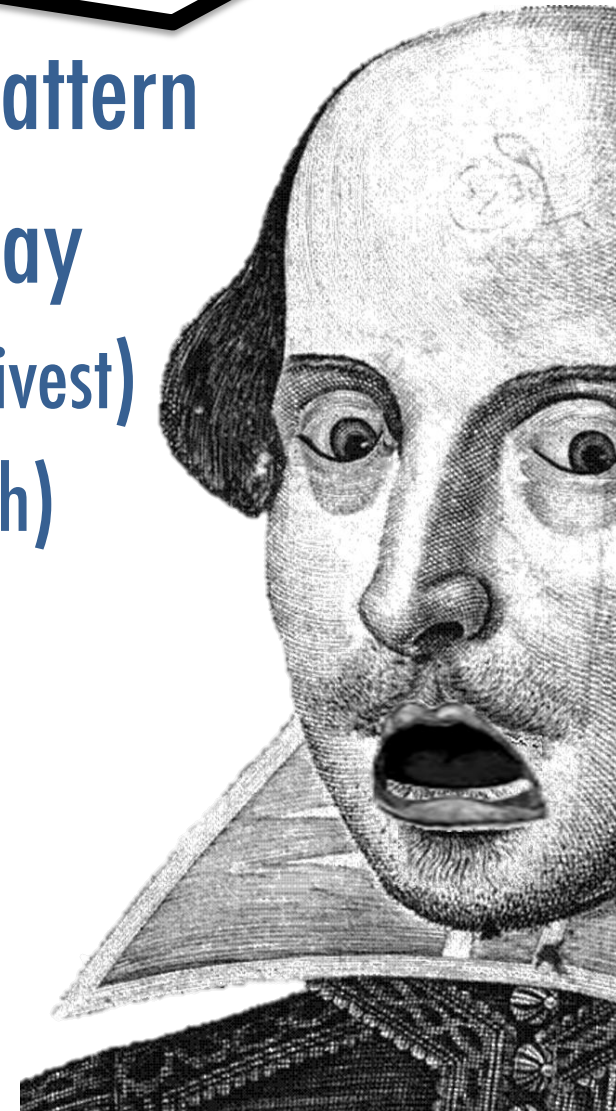
- **Thou** (Subject): "Thou art my brother."
- **Thee** (Object): "Come, let me clutch thee."
- **Thy** (Possessive Adj.): "What is thy name?"
- **Thine** (Possessive Noun) "To thine own self be true."
- **Ye** (Plural Subject): "Ye shall know me."



'Tis tricky, the conjugation of thy verbs

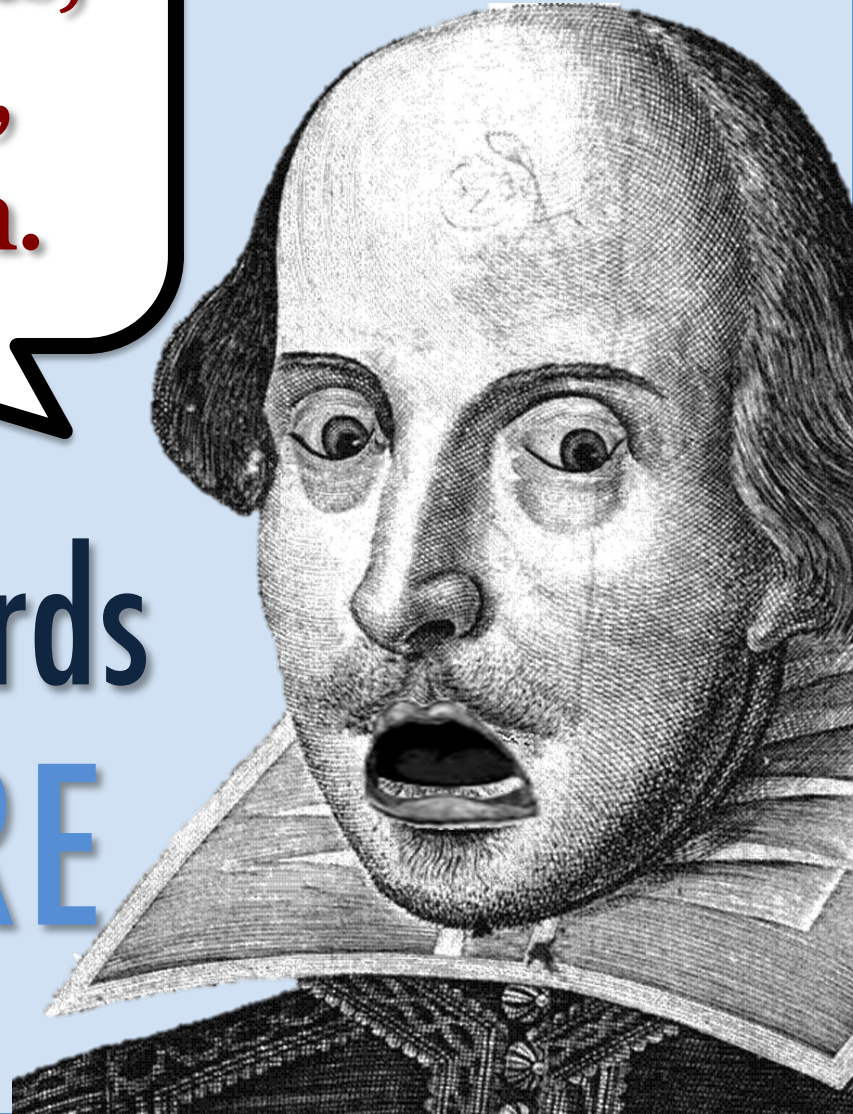
- Verb conjugation also follows a pattern
- More complicated than modern-day
 - 2nd person singular adds -est (Thou givest)
 - 3rd person singular adds -eth (He giveth)

Singular	Plural
I speak	We speak
Thou speakest	Ye speak
He/she/it speaketh	They speak



Mark my words,
then, prithee,
translate them.

10 Frequently
Encountered Words
found in
SHAKESPEARE



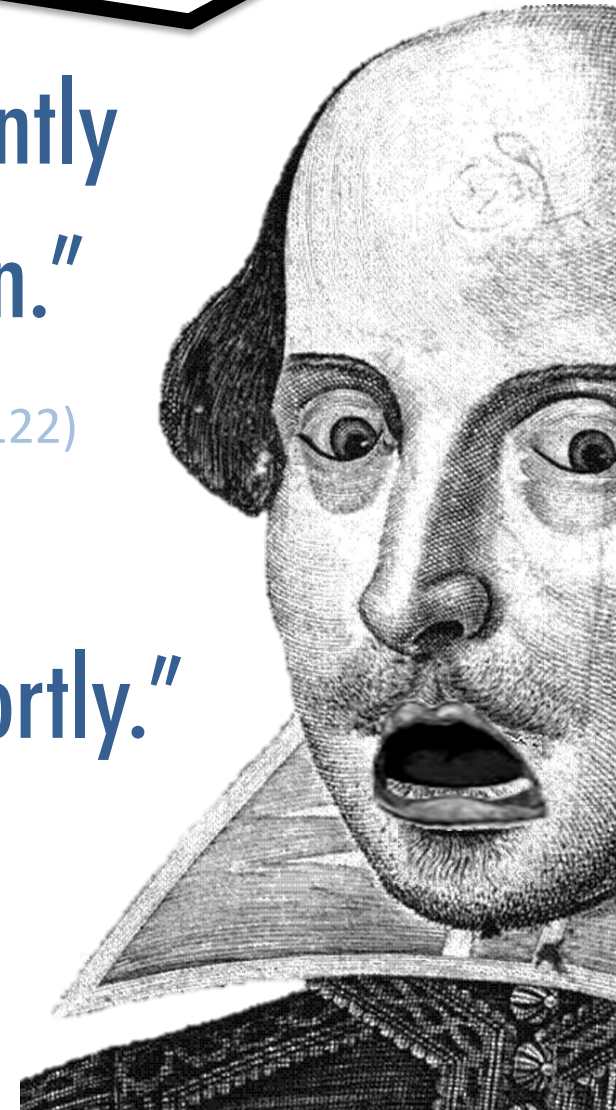
Oft encounter'd words

- **anon** (adv.) soon, shortly, presently
“I will speak with you further anon.”

(AWI.iii.122)

Translation?

“I will speak with you further shortly.”



Oft encounter'd words

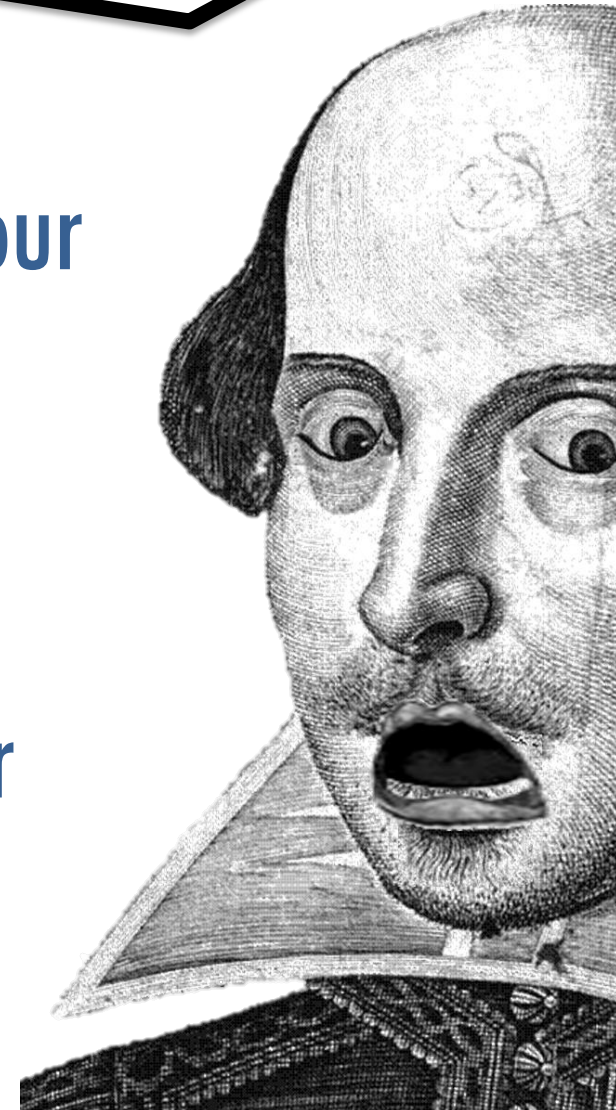
- **aught** (n.) anything

“Though you respect not aught, your servant doth.”

(TG V.iv.20)

Translation?

“Though you respect nothing, your servant does.”



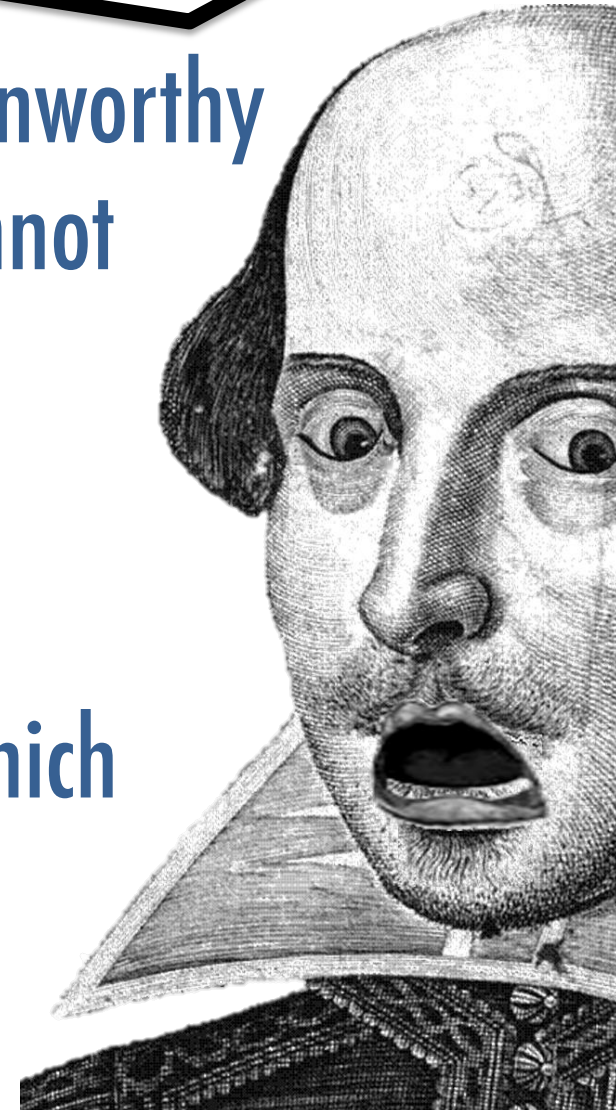
Oft encounter'd words

- **base** (adj.) dishonorable, low, unworthy
“...basest theft is that / Which cannot
cloak itself on poverty.”

(E3 II.ii.80)

Translation?

“The lowest type of theft is that which cannot be blamed on poverty.”



Oft encounter'd words

- **hie** (v.) go quickly, hurry
"Hie you home to dinner."

(CE I.ii.90)

Translation?

"Hurry home for dinner."



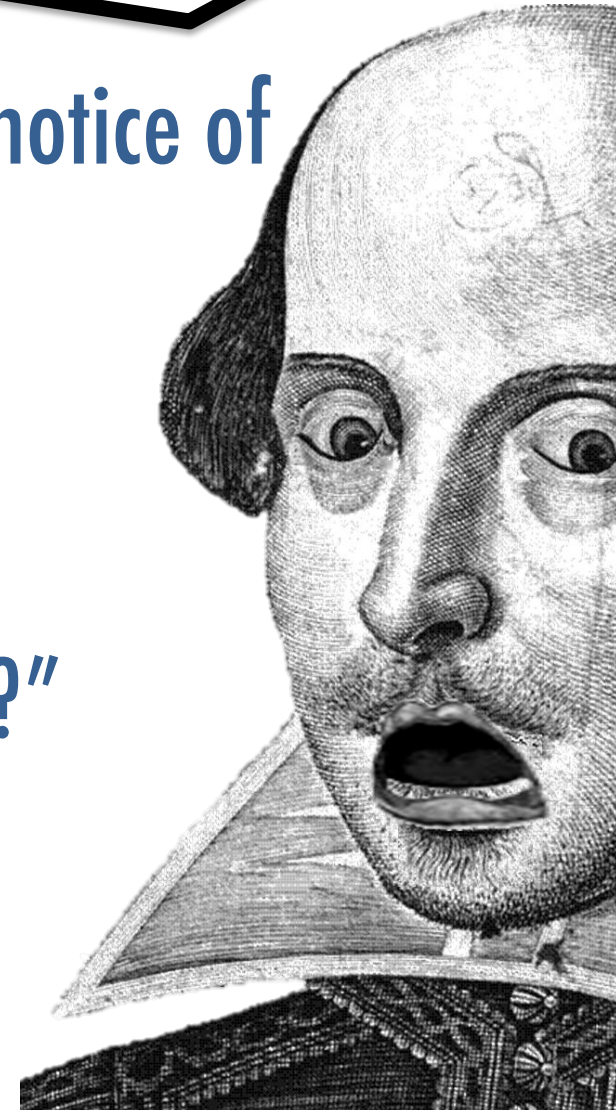
Oft encounter'd words

- **mark** (v.) pay attention to, take notice of
"Marked you his lip and eyes?"

(Cor 1.i.253)

Translation?

"Did you notice his lips and eyes?"



Oft encounter'd words

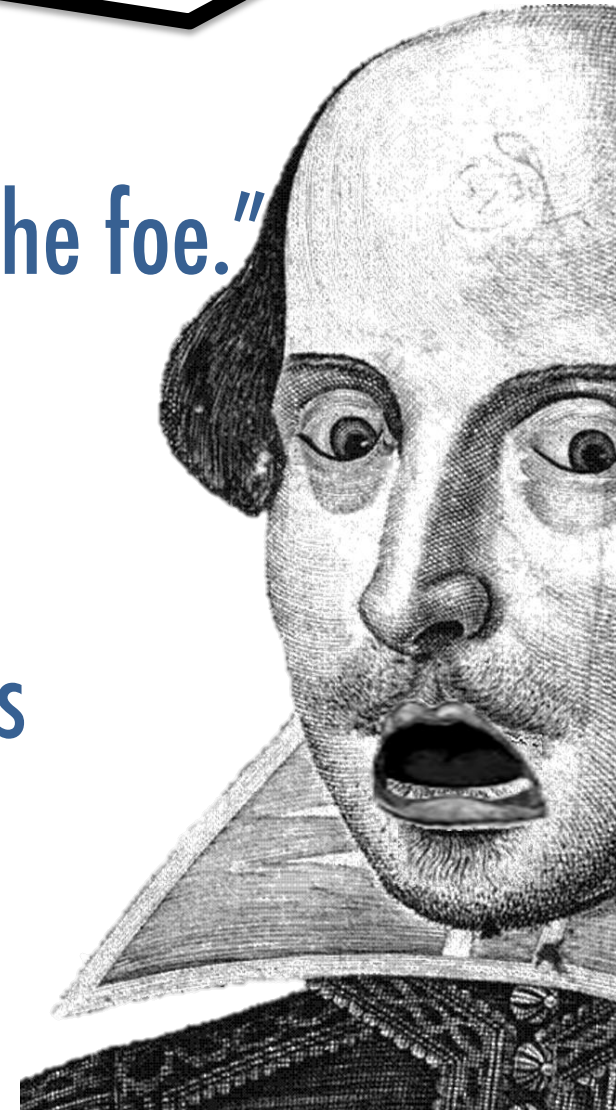
- **meet** (adj.) suitable, proper, right

"It is most meet we arm us 'gainst the foe."

(H5 II.iv.15)

Translation?

"It is right for us to arm ourselves against our enemy."



Oft encounter'd words

- **marry** (int.) indeed

“Marry, sir, I am helping you.”

(AYL I.i.30)

Translation?

“Indeed, sir, I am helping you.”



Oft encounter'd words

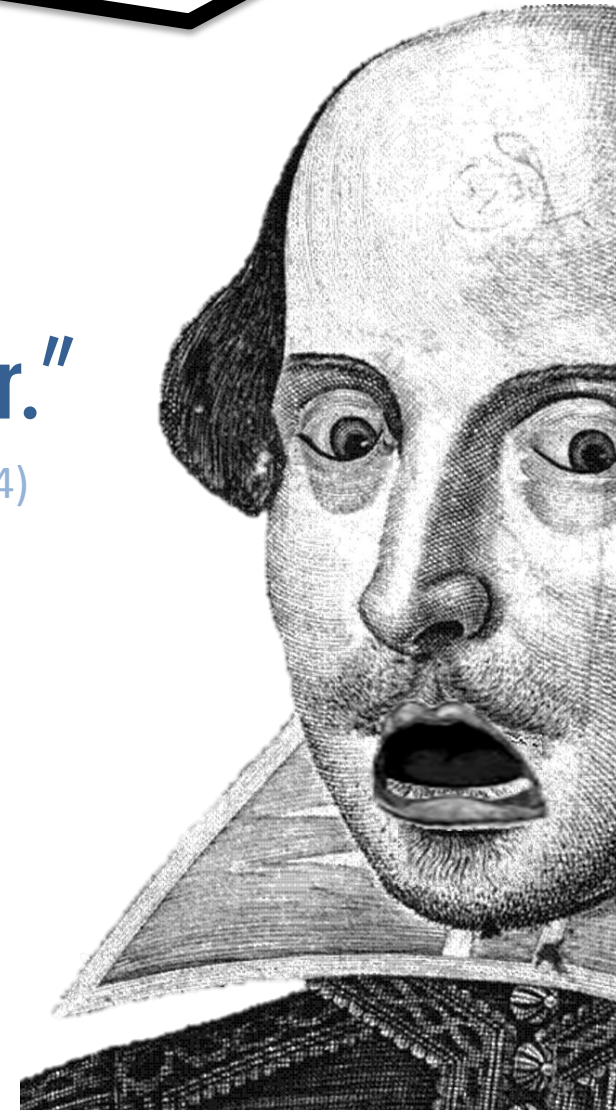
- **prithee** (int.) please, I ask you
(short for "I pray thee.")

"I prithee, lady, have a better cheer."

(AW III.ii.64)

Translation?

"Please, lady, cheer up."



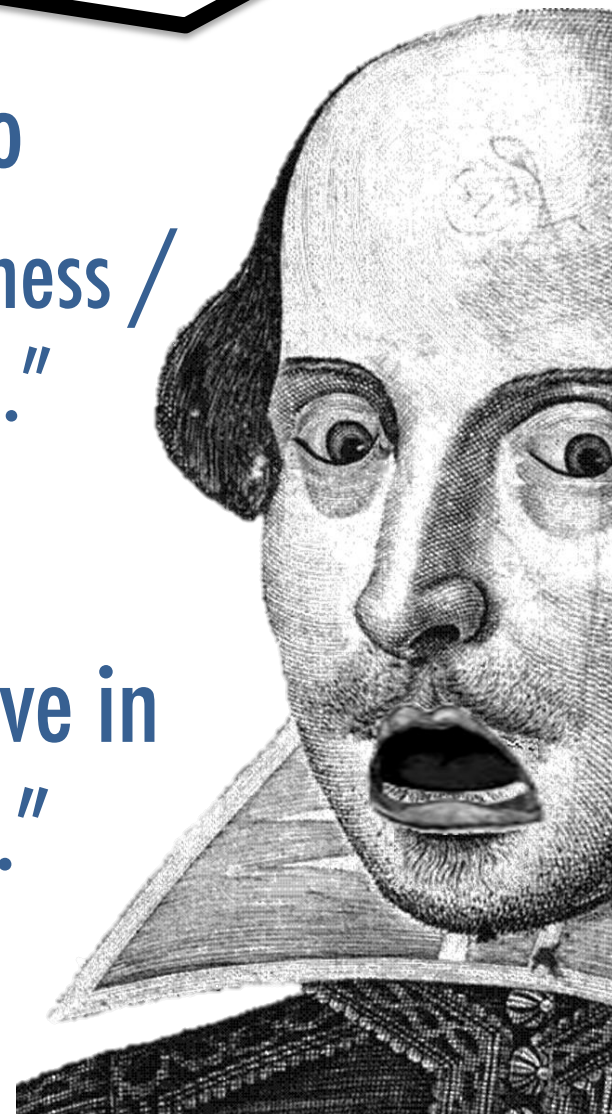
Oft encounter'd words

- **wont** (v.) be accustomed, likely to
"I have not from your eyes that gentleness /
And show of love as I was wont to have."

Translation?

(JC I.ii.34)

"I don't see that gentleness and love in
your eyes that I am accustomed to."



Oft encountr'd words

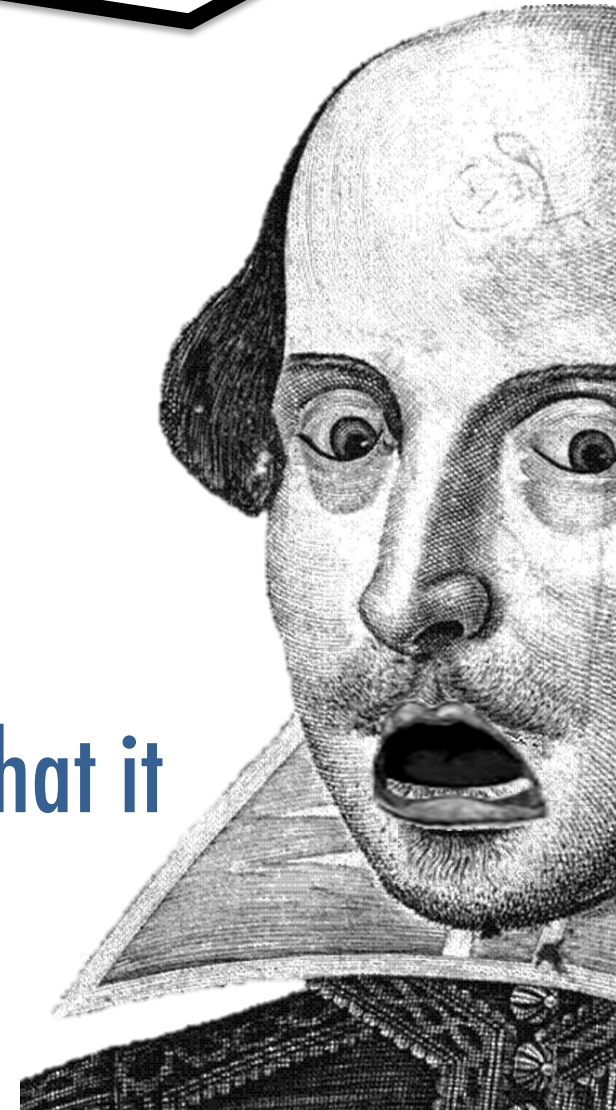
- **wot** (v.) learn, know, be told

"We English warriors wot not what it means."

(Cor 1.i.253)

Translation?

"We English warriors don't know what it means."



Elizabethan Language Glossary

Adieu—farewell

An—if

Anon—soon, at once

Art—are

Aught—anything

Aye, ay—yes

Base—low, dishonorable

Befall—happen, occur, take place

Counsel—advice

Coz—cousin, any close relative

Discourses—speaks

Dispatch—to send away or kill

Dost, doth—do, does

E'en—even, evening

Ere—before

Fain—gladly, willingly

Foe—enemy

Good-den, do-den—good evening

Good morrow—good day

Hap, haply—lucky, luckily

Hast, hath—have, has

Heavy—sad

Hie—go quickly

Hither—here

Humor—mood, frame of mind

Knave—young boy, servant

Liege—king master, lord

Maid—an unmarried woman

Mark—pay attention to

Marry—indeed, of course

Meet—suitable, proper

Methinks—I think

Nay—no

N'er—never

Nought—nothing

Oft—often

Perchance—perhaps, maybe

Pray—beg

Prithce—please (I ask you)

Privy—informed

Quoth—said

Resolve—plan

Sirrah—boy, usually of low rank

Soft—hush, wait a minute

Tarry—wait, linger

Tax—criticize, accuse

Thee, thou—you

Thither—there

Thy—your

Tidings—news

Tis—it is

Verily—truly

Wench—girl, young serving woman

Wherefore—why

Whither—where, to where

Will—desire

Withal—with, in addition, also

Woe—misery

Wont—likely to, be accustomed to

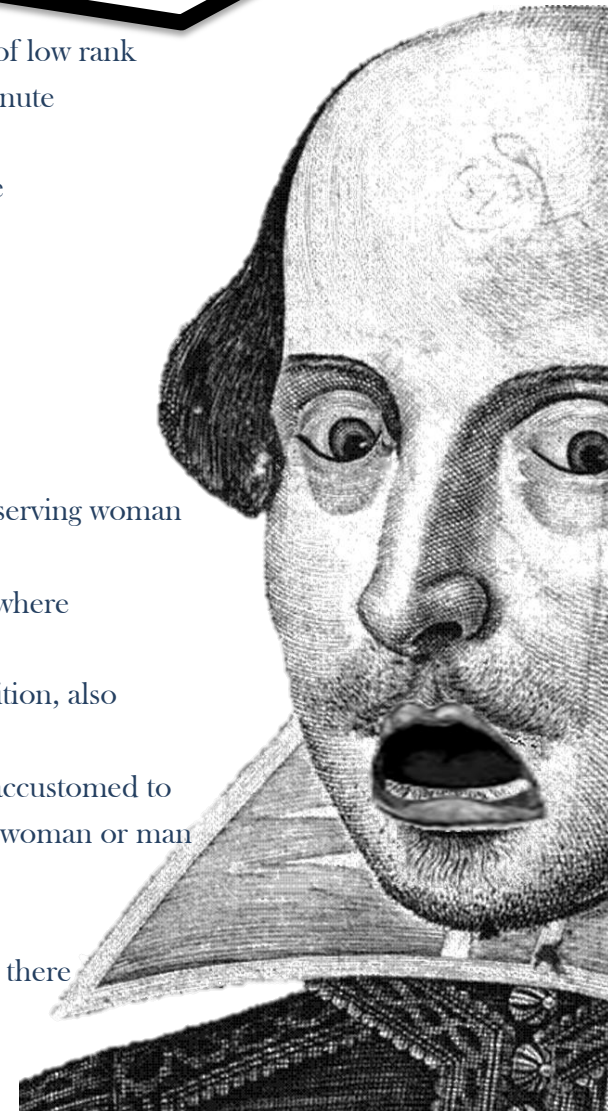
Woo—to romance a woman or man

Wot—know

Would—wish

Yond, yonder—over there

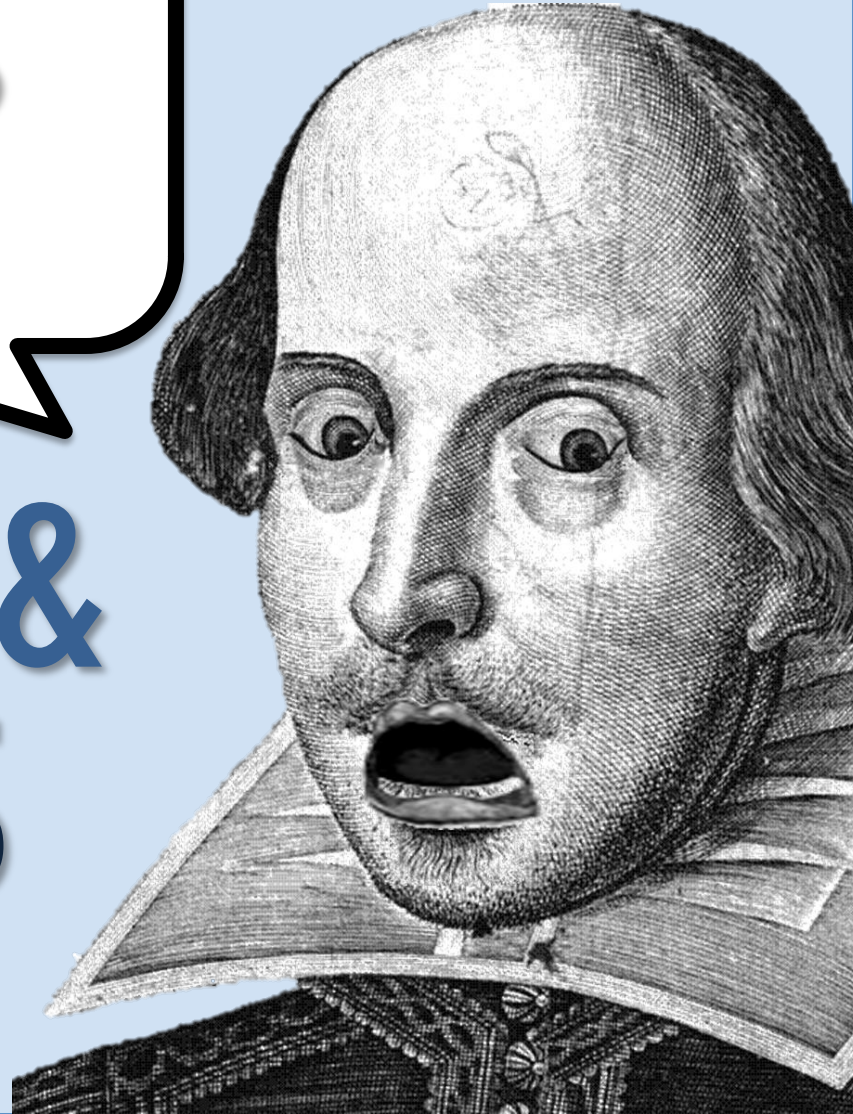
**Can be printed and used to help decipher meaning as you read*



**'Tis time
for thee to
practice.**

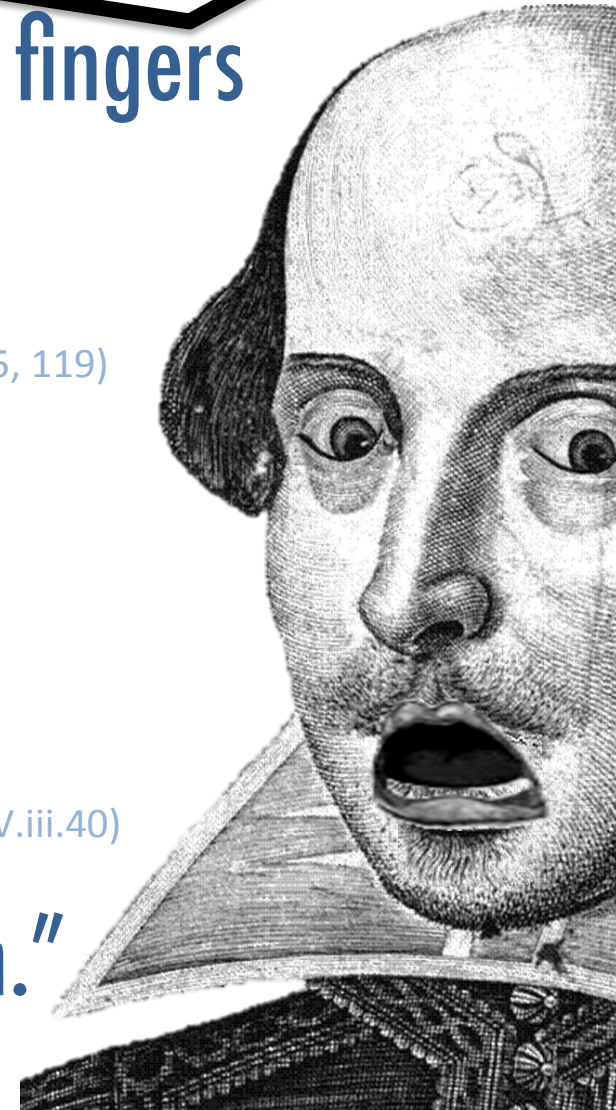
Language

PRACTICE & ACTIVITIES



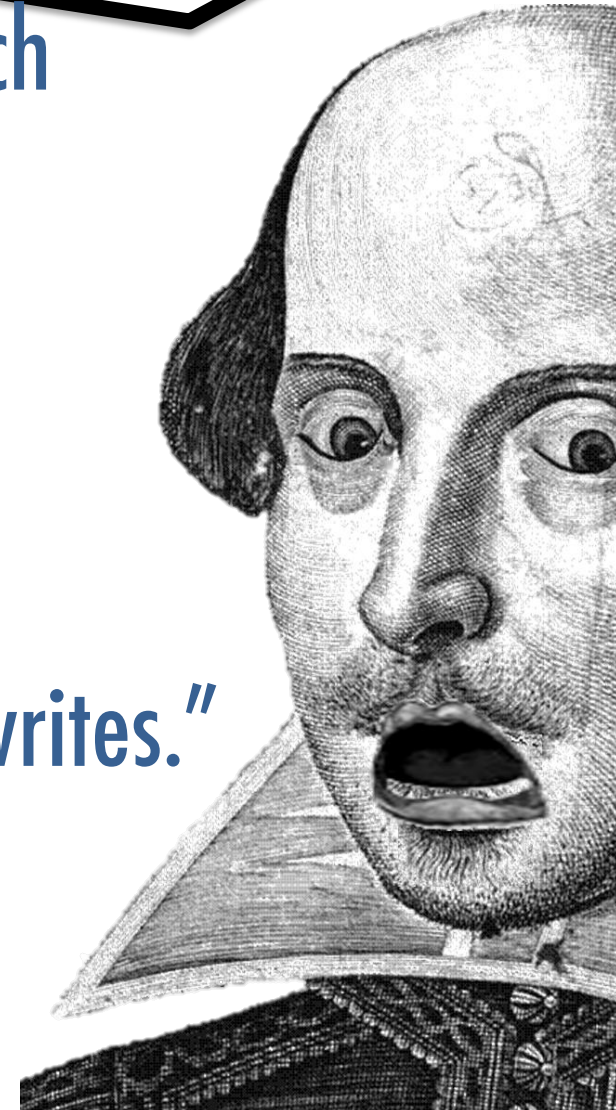
For thy practice

- “Shall we now / Contaminate our fingers with base bribes?” (JC IV.iii.24)
- “For such a guest is meet.” (Ham V.i.95, 119)
- “I'll remember't anon.” (Cym III.v.132)
- “I wot well where he is.” (RJ III.ii.139)
- “Mark how the tyrant writes.” (AYL IV.iii.40)
- “Prithee hie thee; he'll come anon.” (Oth IV.iii.47)



Art thy responses similar?

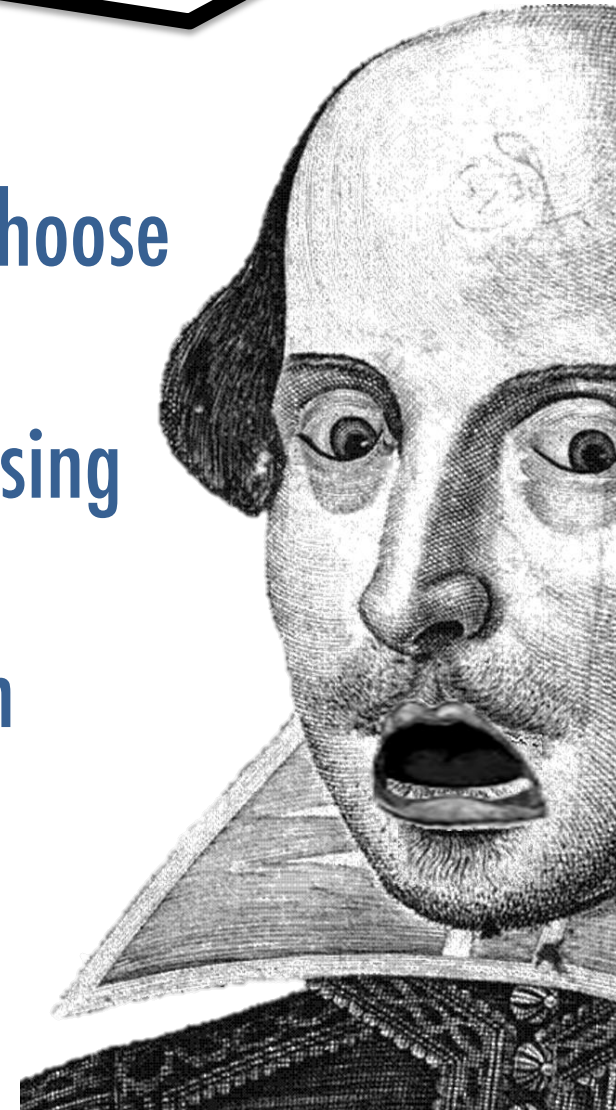
- "Shall we dirty our hands with such dishonorable bribes?"
- "For such a guest is suitable."
- "I'll remember it shortly."
- "I know well where he is."
- "Pay attention to how the tyrant writes."
- "Please go quickly; he'll be here shortly."



**All the world's a stage.
Thou shalt be a player.**

Shakespearean Skit Activity:

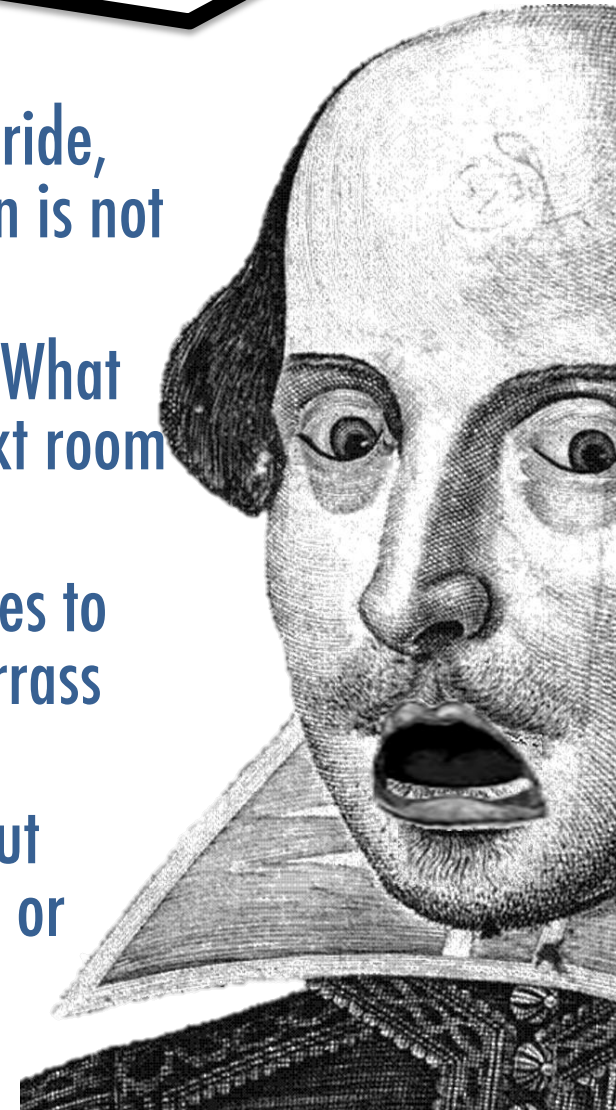
- Working in groups of three or four, choose one of the scenarios provided
- Write a scene (minimum 20 lines) using modern-day English.
- Translate your scene into Elizabethan language (use your glossary!)
- Present your scene to the class.



**All the world's a stage.
Thou shalt be a player.**

Skit Scenarios (choose one):

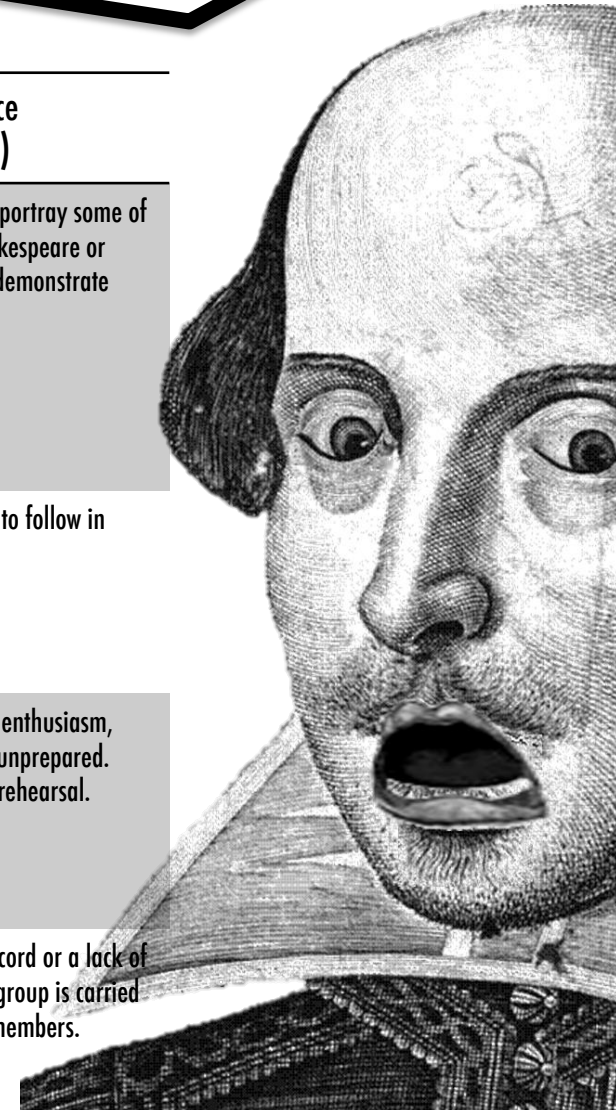
- A young man visits the parent(s) of his future bride, asking for permission for her hand. The reaction is not what he expects.
- Students are gossiping about a fellow student. What they don't realize is that he or she is in the next room hearing every word.
- During a job interview, a young professional tries to impress his or her potential boss, only to embarrass him/herself terribly.
- A fast-food customer tries to order everything but what is on the actual menu, causing the cashier or cook to do something unexpected.



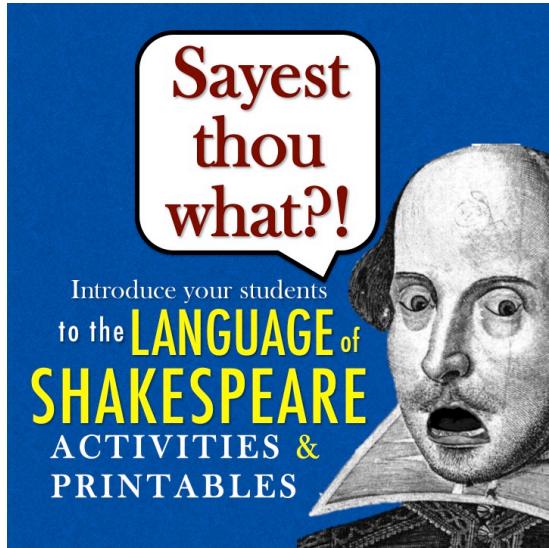
A B or not a B. Hie thee for an A!

Skit Rubric

	Master (4-5)	Apprentice (2-3)	Novice (0-1)
Content	Skit clearly, accurately and creatively portrays an understanding of the language of Shakespeare.	Skit adequately demonstrates a basic understanding of the language of Shakespeare.	Skit may incorrectly portray some of the language of Shakespeare or may be too brief to demonstrate understanding.
Organization	Skit is well-written and easy to follow, with a clear beginning, middle and ending.	Skit is mostly clear and easy to follow.	Skit may be difficult to follow in spots or overall.
Presentation	Presenters are well-prepared, enthusiastic and engaging. Skit is clearly rehearsed.	Presenters are mostly engaging. Skit shows some preparation.	Presenters may lack enthusiasm, seem uninvolved or unprepared. Skit could use more rehearsal.
Collaboration	Group works together seamlessly, with all members contributing evenly.	Group works together, with all members contributing.	Group may show discord or a lack of involvement, or the group is carried by only one or two members.

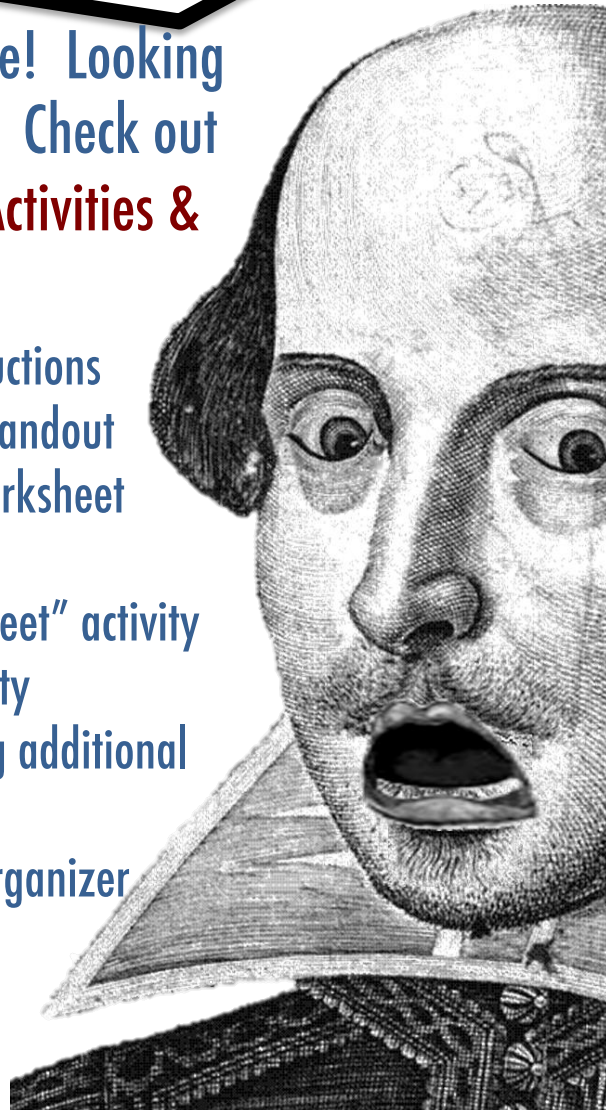


Gramercy!



Thanks so much for your purchase! Looking for even more activities and fun? Check out my "Language of Shakespeare: Activities & Printables" packet, including:

- Overview/lesson instructions
- Elizabethan glossary handout
- Translation practice worksheet
- Completed answer key
- Shakespeare "Song Tweet" activity
- Extension sonnet activity
- Skit handout, including additional scenario options
- Skit planner graphic organizer
- Printable rubric



Sayest thou what?!
The Language of Shakespeare

Glossary of Elizabethan Terms

Plot Planner

Tweeteth thou what?!
Shakespeare Song Tweets

Shakespeare Translation Practice

All the world's a stage. Those shoddest auditions!
Shakespeare Language Skits

A B not a B. That is the question. Gosh for the A.
RUBRIC

Gramercy!

Thanks again for your purchase! As always, I sincerely appreciate your support on TeachersPayTeachers!

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