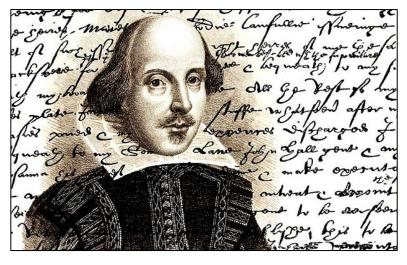
# **Words and Phrases Coined by Shakespeare**



In addition to his being a particularly clever wordsmith, Shakespeare's word invention can be credited to the fact that the English language as a whole was in a major state of flux during the time that he was writing. Colonization and wars meant that English speakers were borrowing more and more words from other languages.

It's hard to say whether or not Shakespeare was the first to *use* many of these words, but in most cases he has long been believed to be the first to write them.

So before you dismiss Shakespeare as a stodgy, boring alternative to more contemporary writers, remember that you have *him* to thank for the popularization of the following words...and around 1700 in total!!

# **Directions:**

- 1. Read over the phrases and words coined by The Bard, AKA, William Shakespeare.
- 2. Write a short love story using at least 8 of his phrases and words
- "For goodness sake" Henry VIII
- "Neither here not there" Othello
- "Mum's the word" Henry VI, Part II
- "Eaten out of house and home" Henry IV. Part II
- "Rant" Hamlet
- "Knock knock! Who's there?" Macbeth
- "**All's well that ends well**" *All's Well That Ends Well*
- "With bated breath" The Merchant of Venice
- "A wild goose chase" Romeo and Juliet
- "Assassination" Macbeth
- "**Too much of a good thing**" As You Like It
- "A heart of gold" Henry V
- "Such stuff as dreams are made on" The Tempest
- "Fashionable" Troilus and Cressida
- "**What the dickens**" The Merry Wives of Windsor
- "**Puking**" As You Like It
- "Lie low" Much Ado About Nothing
- "Dead as a doornail" Henry VI, Part II
- "Not slept one wink" Cymbeline
- "Foregone conclusion" Othello

- "The world's mine oyster" The Merry Wives of Windsor
- "Obscene" Love's Labour's Lost
- "Bedazzled" The Taming of the Shrew
- "In stitches" Twelfth Night
- "Addiction" Othello
- "Naked truth" Love's Labour's Lost
- "Faint-hearted" Henry VI, Part I
- "Send him packing" Henry IV
- "Vanish into thin air" Othello
- -"In a pickle" -The Tempest
- "Swagger" Henry V
- "Own flesh and blood" Hamlet
- "Truth will out" The Merchant of Venice
- "Zany" Love's Labour's Lost
- "Give the devil his due" Henry IV, Part I
- "There's method in my madness" Hamlet
- "Salad days" Antony and Cleopatra
- "Wear your heart on your sleeve" Othello
- "Spotless reputation" Richard II
- "Full circle" King Lear
- "There's the rub" Hamlet
- "**All of a sudden**" The Taming of the Shrew
- "Come what, come may" Macbeth

#### Gloomy

**Definition:** Somewhat dark: not bright or sunny **Origin:** "To gloom" was a verb that existed before Shakespeare converted the word into an adjective in a number of his plays.

**Quote:** "Forced in the ruthless, vast, and gloomy woods?" - *Titus Andronicus* 

#### Laughable

**Definition:** Bad in a way that seems foolish or silly

Origin: Derived from the verb "laugh."

**Quote:** "Though Nestor swear the jest be laughable." - *The Merchant of Venice* 

#### Majestic

**Definition:** Large and impressively beautiful

**Origin:** From "majesty," which appeared in the 1300s, meaning "greatness." "Majestical" was first used in the 1570s.

**Quote:** "This is a most majestic vision" - *The Tempest* 

#### Lonely

**Definition:** Sad from being apart from other people **Origin:** "Alone" was first shortened to "lone" in the

**Quote:** "Believe't not lightly – though I go alone / Like to a lonely dragon that his fen *-Coriolanus* 

#### Radiance

**Definition:** A quality of brightness and happiness that can be seen on a person's face

**Origin:** Derived from the Latin "radiantem," meaning "beaming."

**Quote:** "For by the sacred radiance of the sun" -  $\mathit{King}$   $\mathit{Lear}$ 

## Hurry

**Definition:** Move or act with haste; rush **Origin:** Likely derived from the verb "harry"

Quote: "Lives, honors, lands, and all hurry to loss." -

Henry VI Part 1

## Generous

**Definition:** Freely giving or sharing money and other valuable things

**Origin:** From the Latin "generosus," meaning "of noble birth."

**Quote:** "Free me so far in your most generous thoughts / That I have shot mine arrow o'er the house / And hurt my brother." - *Hamlet* 

## **Frugal**

**Definition:**Careful about spending money or using

things when you do not need to

Origin: From the Latin "frugi," meaning "useful,

proper, worthy, honest."

Quote: "Chid I for that at frugal Nature's frame?" -

Much Ado About Nothing

#### **Critical**

**Definition:** Expressing criticism or disapproval **Origin:** From the Latin "criticus," which referred specifically to a literary critic.

Quote: "For I am nothing if not critical" - Othello

## Courtship

**Definition:** The activities that occur when people are developing a romantic relationship that could lead to marriage or the period of time when such activities occur **Origin:** "Court" was first used to mean "woo" in the 1570s; prior, it was used to mean "king's court, princely residence," derived from the French "cort."

**Quote:** "To courtship and such fair ostents of love" - *The Merchant of Venice* 

#### Zany

**Definition:** Amusingly unconventional and idiosyncratic

**Origin:** Derived from the Italian "zani," which came from "Zanni," a version of the name "Giovanni."

**Quote:** "Some carry-tale, some please-man, some slight zany" - *Love's Labour's Lost* 

#### **Undress**

**Definition:** To take your clothes off

**Origin:** "Dress" comes from the Old French "dresser," meaning "prepare, arrange, straighten, put right." Shakespeare was the first to add the prefix "un-." **Quote:** "Madam, undress you and come now to bed." - *The Taming of the Shrew* 

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#### Rant

**Definition:** To talk loudly and in a way that shows anger: to complain in a way that is unreasonable **Origin:** Derived from the Dutch "randten," meaning "talk foolishly."

Quote: "I'll rant as well as thou." - Hamlet

# THINGS WE SAY TODAY WHICH WE OWE TO SHAKESPEARE

"KNOCK KNOCK! WHO'S THERE?"

"SET YOUR TEETH ON EDGE"

"FAINT HEARTED"

"SO-SO" "GOOD RIDDANCE"

"FIGHT FIRE "SEEN BETTER DAYS"

WITH FIRE"

"SEND HIM PACKING"

WEAR YOUR HEART ON YOUR SLEEVE"

"NOT SLEPT ONE WINK"

"COME WHAT MAY"

"THE GAME IS UP"

"FOR GOODNESS' SAKE"

"WHAT'S DONE IS DONE"

"BATED

BREATH"

"GREEN EYED MONSTER"

"VANISH INTO THIN AIR"

"BE ALL / END ALL"

"VANISH INTO THIN AIR"

"BE ALL / END ALL"

"OUT OF THE JAWS OF DEATH"

"OUT OF THE JAWS OF DEATH"

"NAKED TRUTH"

"PLAY WORLD"

"BREAK THE ICE"

"BREAKTHE ICE"

"BREATHED "THE WORLD IS "WILD

"OFF WITH

HIS HEAD"

LOW"

"LOVE IS BLIND" CHASE"

"HEART OF HEARTS" "A SORRY SIGHT"

"A PIECE OF WORK"

