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 1400s.
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" - King Lear

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

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?*  "HEART OF* SET YOUR TEETH ON EDGE* "GOLD* FAINT HEARTED* "50-50* "GOOD RIDDANCE* FIGHT FIRE* "SEEN BETTER DAYS* "TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING* 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* "FULL CIRCLE* BATED BREATH* "GREEN EYED MONSTER" VANISH INTO THIN AIR* "DEAD AS A DOORNAIL* "OUT OF THE JAWS OF DEATH* IN A "FAIR FOUL" "BRAVE" "BRONWEB" "STAND ON END" "LAUGHING STOCK" "BREAK THE ICE* "TRAHED" "THE WORLD IS WILD* "OFF WITH" "LIE HIS LAST" "MY OYSTER" "GOOSE HIS HEAD" "LOW* "LOVE IS BLIND* "CHASE* "HEART OF HEARTS* "A SORRY SIGHT* "A PIECE OF WORK*
INVENTED THE WORD

THINK HE HAS NO SWAG