

WORKING WITH SHAKESPEARE'S LANGUAGE

CCSS.910.L

NAME: _____
 TEACHER: _____
 COURSE/PD: _____
 DATE: _____
 (day) (month) (year)

How To: Make a copy → https://youtu.be/z7_BtiNrtqA

Background: When Shakespeare wrote his sonnets and plays, the language that he used was popular and would have been easily recognized by 17th century audiences. However, today, we have a more difficult time comprehending the words Shakespeare used because they are not common to us. However, Shakespeare's words can be easily translated into modern English, and once an understanding of Shakespeare's language has been acquired, then it is easier to understand and appreciate his stories.

Directions: This activity will provide you with the opportunity to better understand the language of Shakespeare by having you write an original scene in modern English and then translating it into the English of Shakespeare's time. Choose one of the following three scenarios upon which to write your scene between two people using modern-day English. Each character must have at least ten lines of dialogue (at least three words per line).

Scenario #1: Write a scene in which two young people have a crush on the same person, but don't know it. In the scene, either have the two young people discover that they like the same person, or have them each talk about the person that they like but not have them realize that they are talking about the same person.

Scenario #2: Write a scene in which a teenager wants to borrow his parents' car to go to the movies with their friends. The parents oppose the idea, and the teenager tries to persuade them.

Scenario #3: Write a scene in which a young person confesses their affection to the person that they like and ask them out on a date. Either have the other person confess their affection back to the young person and accept the date, or have them politely decline the young person's date and affection.

Using the *Scene Chart* on page three, write your scene in modern English in the left column and then using the list of *Common Shakespearean Words & Phrases* on page two, write the translation in the right column.

An example has been provided for you.

EXAMPLE	
SCENE IN MODERN ENGLISH	TRANSLATION IN TO SHAKESPEAREAN ENGLISH
Emmalyn: "Hey dad, can I borrow your truck?"	Emmalyn: " Hist father, canst I borrow thy truck?"
Dad: "No, you are only four years old"	Dad: " Nay , thee art only four years old"
Emmalyn: "That is okay, I know how to drive."	Emmalyn: " Yond is okay, I wot how to drive."
Dad: "But you don't have a license."	Dad: "But thou doth not hath a license."
Emmalyn: "I can borrow yours."	Emmalyn: "I canst borrow thine ."

Common Shakespearean Words & Phrases

Shakespearean English	Modern English
'tis	it is
'twere	it were
'twill	it will
adieu	good bye
an	in
anon	at once; soon
art	are
attend	listen; pay attention
ay	yes
bade	asked; requested
beseech	beg
bid	to wish; ask
camest	came
canst	can
desirest	desire; want
discourses	speaks
dost	do
doth	does
farewell	good-bye
fellow	young man
flirt-girls	flirty young women
foe	enemy
God gi god-den	good day / good evening
good morrow	good morning
hark ye	listen
heavy	sad
hie	go
hist	hey
hither	here
kinsmen	family member; relative
lord	an expression of respect
maid	An unmarried young girl
mark	listen; pay attention
merrily	happily
methinks	I think
mine	my
morn	morning
morrow	tomorrow
naught	nothing
nay	no
pray	ask; plead with
quoth	said
repliest	reply
sirrah	Fellow; young man
skains-mates	mischievous companions
spake	spoke
thee	you
thine	Mine; yours
thou	you (informal)
thy	your; my
went'st	went
wert	were

Shakespearean English	Modern English
whither	where
will	desire
wilt	will
woe	grief
woo	To court; date; flirt
wot	know
would	wish
wouldst	would
yea	yes

A complete list of Shakespearean words and translations can be found at →

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xkYEBYSWltQPhawRXM73wlP9lqYWRUPC/view?usp=sharing>

Directions: Using the *Scene Chart* on page three, write your scene in modern English in the left column and then using the list of *Common Shakespearean Words & Phrases* on page two, write the translation in the right column.

SCENE CHART	
SCENE IN MODERN ENGLISH	TRANSLATION IN TO SHAKESPEAREAN ENGLISH