

## Bitesize KS3 English Literature – Shakespeare

### About Shakespeare – Language and relevance transcript

**FEMALE PERFORMER**

Love looks not with the eyes but with the mind and therefore it winged Cupid painted blind.

**FEMALE PRESENTER**

So beautiful. There's lots of lovely language in Shakespeare's plays, but people don't speak the way that Shakespeare wrote, not in real life, so why is it...

**WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

Yeah they do. People are always using words and phrases I've written.

**FEMALE PRESENTER**

Like when?

**WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

Like constantly. You can't help it, you'll probably do it any minute now.

**FEMALE PRESENTER**

Well I'll bet you I don't. [CAPTION - "BET"]

**WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

Bet, that's one of mine. Henry IV Part One.

**MALE THEATREGOER**

Shh!

**WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

It's my play mate, I can talk if I want.

**FEMALE PRESENTER**

So whilst we may use some of Shakespeare's words and phrases, we certainly don't speak in blank or rhyming verse, but if we did, it might be quite revealing.

**MALE THEATRE STAFF**

No talking, those are the rules.

**William Shakespeare**

Yeah, whatevs mate, you don't run the show here.

**FEMALE PRESENTER**

You see blank verse is mostly left to nobles or royalty, or those in positions of power.

**MALE THEATRE STAFF**

I asked you once, I tried to be nice. Now stay away; I'm not

# Bitesize

gonna tell it twice.

## **FEMALE PRESENTER**

Hold on. Rhyming verse is mostly left to the magical characters like witches or fairies.

Oh, that must be his day job.

The young lovers Romeo and Juliet even speak in rhyming couplets, rhyming each other's sentences, to show just how in love they are.

## **MALE THEATREGOER**

I reckon that this girl is stalking us.

## **FEMALE THEATREGOER**

I think you're right, she's weird. Let's get the bus.

## **FEMALE PRESENTER**

Oh, bless.

## **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

I think he's punching a bit above his weight there.

## **FEMALE PRESENTER**

Well, love is blind. [CAPTION - "LOVE IS BLIND"]

And most of his characters speak in a rhythm called...

## **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

iambic pentameter.

## **FEMALE PRESENTER**

Yes, thank you. Ten syllables to a line with the stress on each alternate syllable.

## **FEMALE CAFE CUSTOMER**

Oh my gosh, guess what? Jo and Josh have split.

## **FEMALE CAFE CUSTOMER**

He's way too good for her and she's a cheat.

## **FEMALE CAFE CUSTOMER**

That's true. But you're the one he fancies now.

## **FEMALE CAFE CUSTOMER**

Don't give me jokes, that boy is so bare fit.

## **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

If music be the food of love, play on. Oh she doth teach the torches to burn bright. Now is the winter of our...

## **FEMALE PRESENTER**

Yes, thank you, we get the point. A juicy bit of gossip there in iambic pentameter.

# Bitesize

But when a character is speaking in prose or ordinary speech, it might mean a number of things. They might be of a lower [CAPTION - "LOWER"] status or it might mean that something chaotic and unusual is happening.

## **MALE PRODUCTION STAFF**

Hi guys, I got your coffees. A macchiato and a latte with...

## **FEMALE PRESENTER**

We're filming.

## **MALE PRODUCTION STAFF**

...skimmed milk.

## **MEMBER OF FILM CREW**

Cut. What the hell do you think you're doing? We're in the middle of a take here you worthless [CAPTION - "WORTHLESS"]  
Cut, I said cut!

## **FEMALE PRESENTER**

Oh, now that is an eyeball popping [CAPTION - "EYEBALL"] puke inducing [CAPTION - "PUKE"] rant [CAPTION - "RANT"] of remorseless savagery. [CAPTION - "REMORSELESS" "SAVAGERY"]  
I'm surprised there wasn't a scuffle. [CAPTION - "SCUFFLE"]

## **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

D'you think he'll calm down?

## **FEMALE PRESENTER**

Well, it'll take some groveling. [CAPTION - "GROVEL"]  
He's very hot-blooded. [CAPTION - "HOT-BLOODED"]

## **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

I'm sorry.

## **FEMALE PRESENTER**

No, d'you know what? I'm quite impressed.

Hob-nob? [CAPTION - "HOB-NOB"] You didn't invent the hob-nob?!

## **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

The phrase, not the biscuit.

## **FEMALE PRESENTER**

Oh. Right come on, let's go before I catch a cold. [CAPTION - "CATCH A COLD"] Blimey, this is unreal. [CAPTION - "UNREAL"]

## **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

Mm.