



talk like
Shakespeare!

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Chicago Shakespeare Theater

Choral Shakespeare

Select a Shakespearean passage and take a few minutes at the beginning of the class period to collectively recite it. Just as any good reader must with a challenging passage of text, actors must read, re-read, and re-read again to understand their lines. Once your students are comfortable with the words, the play begins! Use different tones and voice inflections (a western accent, in robust Italian, like Homer Simpson, in British high style, like a robot, etc...). Say it fast, slow, sing it, chant it, be creative—and soon you will know it and have committed it to memory together! (*Illinois English Language Arts Goals 4ab*)

Examples

Jaques:

All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages.

—*As You Like It*, Act II, scene 7

Juliet:

O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?
Deny thy father and refuse thy name;
Or if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

—*Romeo and Juliet*, Act II, scene 2