

SHAKESPEAREAN STREET SCENES OR "WORD WARS."

Objectives:

- Students create conflict scenes based on Shakespearean insult words.
- Students play with Shakespeare's language in a theatrical performance.
- Students relate scenes to specific Shakespearean play/s.

Lesson Progression:

1. Students will be divided into small groups of two to four. There should be an even number of groups in the class. Each group will be given the Shakespeare insult word sheet.
2. Groups will select words and create three or four insults and plan physical reinforcement such as facial expression, stance, and gesture.
*(No overtly obscene gestures are allowed, and no physical contact will occur. The insults must be abstractly reinforced, and the fighting is done with language).
3. Groups will be allowed 5-10 minutes to prepare the perfect insults for their Shakespearean Street Scene. During the scene, the insults should top each other. The last words should be the strongest in intensity. Vary intensity with volume, pitch, inflection, and rate of speech. * Note: Sometimes a stage whisper can be extremely effective.
4. Groups will perform street scenes. One group will face another and taking turns, they will trade insults and build to their most powerful put-downs.
5. These scenes will not have a winner or a loser. They will stop after each group has performed their insults.

Reflection: Teacher leads a discussion with these questions:

1. How did Shakespeare's language create conflict in these scenes?
2. How did the physical actions of each group reinforce the conflict?
3. Could the conflicts in the scenes be resolved? Does it matter?
4. How do these conflict scenes relate to the study of Shakespeare's work?

Assessment:

Students understand Shakespearean language	1	2	3	4
Students use Shakespearean language effectively	1	2	3	4
Performers communicate clearly	1	2	3	4
All members of the group participate	1	2	3	4

Shakespearean Insults

Combine one word from each of the three columns below preceded by "Thou"

Column 1

artless
bawdy
beslubbering
bootless
churlish
cockered
clouted
craven
currish
dankish
dissembling
droning
errant
fawning
fobbing
froward
fusty
gleeking
goatish
gorbellied
impertinent
infectious
jarring
loggerheaded
lumpish
mammering
mangled
mewling
paunchy
pribbling
puking
puny

Column 2

base-court
bat-fowling
beef-witted
beetle-headed
bunch-back'd
clapper-clawed
clay-brained
common-kissing
crook-pated
dismal-dreaming
dizzy-eyed
doghearted
read-bolted
earth-vexing
elf-skinned
fat-kidneyed
fen-sucked
flap-mouthed
fly-bitten
folly-fallen
fool-born
full-gorged
guts-gripping
half-faced
hasty-witted
hedge-born
hell-hated
idle-headed
ill-breeding
ill-nurtured
knotty-pated
milk-livered

Column 3

apple-john
baggage
barnacle
bladder
boar-pig
bugbear
bum-bailey
canker-blossom
clack-dish
clotpole
coxcomb
codpiece
death-token
dewberry
flap-dragon
flax-wench
flirt-gill
foot-licker
fustilarian
giglet
gudgeon
haggard
harpy
hedge-pig
horn-beast
hugger-mugger
joithead
lewdster
lout
maggot-pie
malt-worm
mammet

qualling
rank
reeky
roguish
ruttish
saucy
spleeny
spongy
surly
tottering
unmuzzled
vain
venomed
villainous
warped
wayward
weedy
yeasty

motley-minded
onion-eyed
plume-plucked
pottle-deep
pox-marked
reeling-ripe
rough-hewn
rude-growing
rump-fed
scale-sided
sheep-biting
spur-galled
swag-bellied
tardy-gaited
tickle-brained
toad-spotted
unchin-snouted
wart-necked

measle
minnow
miscreant
moldwarp
mumble-news
nut-hook
popinjay
pignut
puttock
pumpion
rampallian
scut
skainsmate
strumpet
varlot
vassal
whey-face
wagtail