

## SHAKESPEAREAN INSULTS

Shakespeare was the put-down king of his era. He had a witty and sometimes cruel way with words for his characters to use against each other. He also brought many insulting phrases and expressions into current popular use.

In this pack we'll look at some great insults from 5 different Shakespeare plays, briefly exploring the nature of the insults in each play, and will take an insults mini quiz entitled 'Which Character Said This?' with multiple-choice answers in the Answers Section. Finally, students can create their own Shakespearean Insults by having a go on one of the 'insult generators'!

This pack is useful for any students aged 11+ who are studying Shakespeare, performing in a Shakespeare play, or taking part in a drama group activity. It's also a fun Shakespearean language exercise for an English or literacy class. As an added bonus this pack can be used as a classroom activity for any groups who are performing one of the Arts On The Move plays listed. Links to these plays can be found at the [back of this pack](#).

### **The plays covered are:**

Hamlet  
Macbeth  
Romeo and Juliet  
Othello  
A Midsummer Night's Dream

### **Pack contents:**

[Hamlet Insults](#)  
[Macbeth Insults](#)  
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[Mini Quiz: Which Character Said This?](#)  
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## A Midsummer Night's Dream

13. Tempt not too much the hatred of my spirit for I am sick when I do look on thee.  
(Act 2, Scene 1)

*Was this insulting comment made by (a) Helena, (b) Demetrius or (c) Lysander?*

14. What hempen home-spuns have we swaggering here...? (Act 3, Scene 1)

*Was this insulting comment made by (a) Oberon, (b) Bottom or (c) Puck?*

15. Get you gone you dwarf, you minimus of hindering knotgrass made, you bead, you acorn!  
(Act 3, Scene 2)

*Was this insulting comment made by (a) Hermia, (b) Titania or (c) Lysander?*

**\*The answers to these multiple-choice questions are in the Answers Section at the back of this pack.**

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Arts On The Move has published short adaptations of the Shakespeare plays mentioned in this pack. The scripts are suitable for students aged 11+ and can found on the Arts On The Move website:

[Hamlet, the Murder Mystery](#)

[The Rise and Fall of Lord Macbeth](#)

[Love Me Tender](#) (Romeo and Juliet)

[Three Murders, a Suicide and a Near Miss](#) (Othello)

[Dream On](#) (A Midsummer Night's Dream)

### You might also like:

[An Introduction to Hamlet](#) (scheme of work)

[The Hamlet Rap](#) (a poem for performance)