

# SHAKESPEAREAN INSULT GENERATOR

- **STEP ONE:** Choose any word from Column 1, any word from Column 2, and any word from Column 3.
- **STEP TWO:** Find a willing target for your insult.
- **STEP THREE:** Look that person in the face, and with a sense of power and playfulness say, "You..." and add your three choice words!

1

belching  
blasted  
brawling  
cankering  
churlish  
cogging  
cowardly  
crusty  
false  
feigning  
filthy  
foppish  
foul  
grumbling  
insolent  
irksome  
knavish  
pernicious  
rotten  
ruffian  
ruinous  
saucy  
shallow  
soulless

2

abominable  
absolute  
beef-witted  
beetle-headed  
crafty-swearing  
disgraceful  
dissembling  
false-faced  
fell-lurking  
foul-spoken  
hyperbolic  
ill-composed  
injurious  
intolerable  
knotty-pated  
muddy-mettled  
perfidious  
self-endearing  
sheep-biting  
skimble-skamble  
tripe-visaged  
unmeritable  
vile-drawing  
wind-changing

3

adversity  
barnacle  
buzzard  
cacodemon  
canker-blossom  
carbuncle  
cheater  
clodpole  
dishclout  
fantastico  
fool  
fustilarian  
geck  
hedge-pig  
iniquity  
lump  
miscreant  
pickthank  
rampallian  
rudesby  
spider  
thing  
villain  
worm



## Questions for reflection:

- What inspired your choice of words? What did you like about them? What other words look interesting to you?
- We're being playful here, but how would it feel to really insult someone? How would it feel to be truly insulted?
- Why do you think it's fun to pretend to insult one another? What makes it fun?

# SHAKESPEAREAN EXALT GENERATOR

- **STEP ONE:** Choose one Shakespearean word from each of the three columns below and put them together.
- **STEP TWO:** Find the person you've insulted (or if you haven't insulted anyone, just choose someone you'd like to exalt).
- **STEP THREE:** Look that person in the face and say "You..." followed by your three chosen words. **See how powerful and sincere your "exalt" can be!**

1

blessed  
brave  
bright  
dear  
divine  
gallant  
glorious  
graceful  
gracious  
honest  
hopeful  
inspired  
kind  
perfect  
precious  
radiant  
sweet  
valiant  
wise

2

admired  
all-cheering  
angelical  
beauteous  
bedazzling  
celestial  
courageous  
exalted  
excellent  
exquisite  
delightful  
majestical  
marvelous  
pleasant-spirited  
praise-worthy  
precious-dear  
quick-witted  
sweet-faced  
unmatchable

3

allurement  
amazement  
angel  
blossom  
cherubin  
chuck  
crown o'th'earth  
darling  
divinity  
enchantment  
flower  
friend  
heart  
jewel  
marvel  
sweeting  
sweetheart  
treasure  
wonder



## Questions for reflection:

- What inspired your choice of words? What did you like about them? Which other words interest you?
- What did it feel like to exalt someone? How was that different from insulting them? How was it different from being exalted?

Let's give credit where credit is due!

This exercise is the brainchild of Jerry Maguire, an English teacher at Center Grove High School in Columbus, Indiana. It was shared at the 1985 Teaching Shakespeare Institute hosted by the Folger Shakespeare Library and was included in the first volume of their series, *Shakespeare Set Free* (Washington Square Press, 1993).

