

SPEAK FREELY WHAT YOU THINK

Expressing Yourself

Many of Shakespeare's characters talk about how vital it is to express yourself. In *A Shakesperience*, we hear from three women about how they will not be silenced:

Paulina from *The Winter's Tale* says:

If I prove honey-mouthing, let my tongue blister
And never to my red-looked anger be
The trumpet any more.

Emilia from *Othello* says:

No, I will speak as liberal as the air:
Let heaven and men and devils, let them all,
All, all, cry shame against me, yet I'll speak.



EXPLORE

Kate from *The Taming of the Shrew* says:
My tongue will tell the anger of my heart
Or else my heart, concealing it will break;
And rather than it shall, I will be free,
Even to the uttermost, as I please in words.

Step 1: Look through the lines below.

Step 2: Choose one line from column A and another from column B.

Step 3: Go to Page 2 for suggestions to make these lines your own.

A

What passion hangs these weights upon my tongue?
I cannot speak to her.

But break my heart, for I must hold my tongue.

Unhappy that I am, I cannot heave
My heart into my mouth.

Death ties up my tongue and will not let me speak.

My heart is great, but it must break with silence.

I have no words; my voice is in my sword.

O, that my tongue were in the thunder's mouth!
Then with a passion would I shake the world.

Must I speak now?

B

Those gracious words revive my drooping thoughts
And give my tongue-tied sorrows leave to speak.

When I think, I must speak.

How silver-sweet sound lovers' tongues by night,
Like softest music to attending ears!

Mistake me not. I speak but as I find.

Most strange, but yet most truly will I speak.

Look, what I speak, my life shall prove it true.

O heaven, O earth, bear witness to this sound
And crown what I profess with kind event
If I speak true!

I speak no more than everyone doth know.

MAKE IT YOURS

Find your own way to express the lines you chose, and reflect on those choices with the prompts here.

WAYS TO EXPRESS

- Speak the line out loud.
- Find a pose or gesture that expresses the line.
- Create a work of art.
- Any combination of these ideas!

REFLECT

- Why did you choose the lines you did?
- Did they have anything in common with one another?
- How were they different from one another?
- How did you feel when you were expressing each of your lines?

BY THE WAY, WHO SAYS THESE LINES?

What passion hangs these weights upon my tongue?
I cannot speak to her.
(Orlando in *As You Like It*)

Those gracious words revive my drooping thoughts
And give my tongue-tied sorrows leave to speak.
(Margaret in *Henry the Fourth, part 3*)

But break my heart, for I must hold my tongue.
(Hamlet in *Hamlet*)

When I think, I must speak.
(Rosalind in *As You Like It*)

Unhappy that I am, I cannot heave
My heart into my mouth.
(Cordelia in *King Lear*)

How silver-sweet sound lovers' tongues by night,
Like softest music to attending ears!
(Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*)

Death ties up my tongue and will not let me speak.
(Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*)

Mistake me not. I speak but as I find.
(Baptista in *The Taming of the Shrew*)

My heart is great, but it must break with silence.
(Lord Ross in *Richard the Second*)

Most strange, but yet most truly will I speak.
(Isabella in *Measure for Measure*)

I have no words; my voice is in my sword.
(Macduff in *Macbeth*)

Look, what I speak, my life shall prove it true.
(Bolingbroke in *Richard the Second*)

O, that my tongue were in the thunder's mouth!
Then with a passion would I shake the world.
(Constance in *King John*)

O heaven, O earth, bear witness to this sound
And crown what I profess with kind event
If I speak true!
(Ferdinand in *The Tempest*)

Must I speak now?
(Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*)

I speak no more than everyone doth know.
(The Gardener in *Richard the Second*)