



'Speak what we feel...'

Expressing emotion through Shakespeare's language

Shakespeare created more than a thousand characters in his three dozen plays, and these characters experience a huge range of feelings. As the characters experience the events in the plays and feel grief, fear, rage, delight, and more, they express those feelings through words.

Explore the quotes

Check out the lines below and select some that interest you. Use your voice and/or body to express each line. Notice how the line resonates for you. See if you can name the feelings that come up.

"Love comforteth like sunshine after rain"

"You tread upon my patience."

"These are but wild and whirling words"

"I cannot, nor I will not hold me still."

"What my tongue dares not, that my heart shall say"

"I thank my stars I am happy!"

"Rouse up thy youthful blood, be valiant and live!"

"I'll be revenged on the whole pack of you."

"Stony limits cannot hold love out."

"No, I will weep no more."

"Thou speakest wonders!"

"I will move storms!"

"I'll not be juggled with!"

"Now cracks a noble heart!"

Reflect

In writing or in conversation, share your thoughts about one (or more) quotation. Why did you choose it? Why might someone say this? Would you ever say this? Why or why not?

Create

Use your selected quotation(s) as inspiration for an original poem, story, piece of music or work of art.

So, who says that?

Here's who says each of the quotes on page 1, and in which play. (Tip: don't read this page before completing the reflection and activity on page 1!)

"Love comforteth like sunshine after rain"	This line is from an early long poem, <i>Venus and Adonis</i> .
"You tread upon my patience."	The title character in <i>Henry the Fourth, Part 1</i> says this in response to political maneuvering.
"These are but wild and whirling words"	Horatio has this response to the title character in <i>Hamlet</i> , who is saying incredible things.
"I cannot, nor I will not hold me still."	In <i>The Comedy of Errors</i> , Adriana speaks this after the perceived betrayal of a spouse.
"What my tongue dares not, that my heart shall say"	In <i>Richard the Second</i> , a loyal servant says this at the end of a visit to an imprisoned Richard.
"I thank my stars I am happy!"	In <i>Twelfth Night</i> , the normally stern Malvolio is transformed by the possibility of being loved.
"Rouse up thy youthful blood, be valiant and live!"	In <i>Richard the Second</i> John of Gaunt says this to Bolingbroke, who is about to fight a duel.
"I'll be revenged on the whole pack of you."	Malvolio says this to everyone after being the target of an elaborate prank in <i>Twelfth Night</i> .
"Stony limits cannot hold love out."	In <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , Romeo says this about the walls around Juliet's house.
"No, I will weep no more."	The title character in <i>King Lear</i> struggles with hurt and anger after being turned away by family.
"Thou speakest wonders!"	The title character in <i>Henry the Eighth</i> says this upon hearing praise and predictions about the infant who would later become Queen Elizabeth the First of England.
"I will move storms!"	In <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , Bottom plans to move an audience to floods of tears through powerful acting.
"I'll not be juggled with!"	Laertes says this while trying to get answers about a parent's mysterious death in <i>Hamlet</i> .
"Now cracks a noble heart!"	Horatio says this after the title character dies at the end of <i>Hamlet</i> .