

Shakespearean Insult Generator Explained

Get into pairs.

Between you take a word from anywhere in column one, column two and column three to construct your insult. You share the same three words.

Now put the words 'Thou art...' in front of your insult.

'Thou' is the informal and familiar way of saying 'you'. You is formal and respectful. One would not say 'thou' to Queen Elizabeth or King James - you would lose your head.

'Thou' is used with people you know well and those less important than you. It's perfect for an insult as it can be a subtle put down.

Thou art a besluberring, foot-licking, clack-dish.

*Get them to mutter it quietly to themselves 5 times.

*Play with the vowel sounds - stretch them like a rubber band

*Play with the consonants - attack and bite them

*Play with volume - some parts are loud and some parts are soft. Explore changing where you use volume and softness. Go from soft to loud, loud to soft, loud-soft- loud etc

*Play with pitch - some parts are high and some parts are low. Explore changing where you use high and low. Go from low to high, high to low etc

*Play with proximity - start far away and move closer [aggro], start close and move away [dismissing], circle around them [threatening], use height, use lower levels - try a combination of physicality and proximity.

*Now use any mix of the methods to pass the insult backwards and forwards between your partner trying to TOP them. Whatever they do, out-do them!

*Perform some of the insults with clapping and cheering.

You may wish to just print out a dozen words – say 4 from each column – and stick them on the wall to make it less overwhelming for students. The reduction in choice may, help them with their choice.

Now have a look at the Shakespearean Insult Generator.