

HOW TO talk like Shakespeare!

powered by Chicago Shakespeare Theater

1. Instead of *you*, say *thou* or *thee* (and instead of *y'all*, say *ye*.)
2. Men are *Sirrah*, ladies are *Mistress*, and your friends are all called *Cousin*.
3. Don't waste time saying "*it*," just use the letter "*t*" (*'tis*, *t'will*, *I'll do't*).
4. When in doubt, add the letters "*eth*" to the end of verbs (*he runneth*, *he trippeth*, *he falleth*).
5. To add weight to your opinions, try starting them with *methinks*

www.talkliakespeare.org

Adapted from www.talkliakespeare.org Pedagogical fair use

1. Look at this document and fill in the grid

Old English	Modern English
<i>thou</i>	
<i>thee</i>	
<i>ye</i>	
<i>Sirrah</i>	
<i>Mistress</i>	
<i>Cousin</i>	
<i>'tis</i>	
<i>t'will</i>	
<i>'U do't</i>	
<i>He runneth</i>	
<i>He falleth</i>	
<i>Methinks</i>	

The Tempest Act 1, sc. 2 (line 396 - Verse - Intercut) by William Shakespeare

CALIBAN

This island's mine,
by Sycorax my mother,
Which thou takest from me. When thou camest first,
Thou strokedst me and madest much of me, wouldst give me
Water with berries in't, and teach me how
To name the bigger light, and how the less,
That burn by day and night: and then I loved thee
And show'd thee all the qualities o' the isle,
The fresh springs, brine-pits, barren place and fertile:
Cursed be I that did so! All the charms
Of Sycorax, toads, beetles, bats, light on you!
For I am all the subjects that thou have,
Which first was mine own king: and here you sty me
In this hard rock, whiles you do keep from me
The rest o' the island.

Write in modern English

PROSPERO

Thou most lying slave,
Whom stripes may move, not kindness! I have used thee,
Filth as thou art, with human care, and lodged thee
In mine own cell, till thou didst seek to violate
The honour of my child*.

CALIBAN

O ho, O ho! would't had been done!
Thou didst prevent me; I had peopled else
This isle with Calibans.

Check your understanding

1. Who is Caliban? Prospero's son Prospero's servant
2. Who is Sycorax? Caliban's mother Prospero's mother
3. Why is Caliban angry? Prospero beat him Prospero stole his island
4. *What's the name of Prospero's child? Ferdinand Miranda