

# Shakespeare's Language

**Thee and thou** **I can barely contain my excitement!**

- "You" and "your" are used when addressing social betters (people of higher rank)
- "Thee" and "thou" are used for social equals, family, and friends.
- "Thou" is used as the subject: "Thou art most kind."
- "Thee" is used as the Object of the preposition.  
"Might I have a word with thee?"
- "Thy" and "thine" are possessive pronouns: "What is thy name?"

# Verbs

- Add s, st, or th to verbs:
- has = hast, hath
- can = canst
- will = wilt
- are = art
- were = wert
- Do, does = doth, dost

It is the east  
And Juliet is the  
sun.

Arise fair sun and  
kill the envious  
moon...



# Contractions

'twill be so much fun to  
readeth my play!

- it is = 'tis
- it would = 'twould
- it was = 'twas
- it will = 'twill



# Greetings and partings

- Good morrow = Good morning!
- Good day = Hello! or Good bye!
- Good eve = Good evening
- God ye good den = God grant you a good day
- I shall see thee anon = I'll see you later

Good morrow, ladies  
and gentlemen!



Shakespeare

# Other words...

- Hither = here
- Thither = there
- Yon = that
- Whence = from where
- By my troth = I swear
- Marry = indeed
- Ere = from when
- Ware = aware
- Zounds = Hell's hounds  
(this is like profanity)



# Other words...

- Coz = cousin
- Ope = open
- Beseech = beg
- Ho = NOW!
- Thrice = three times
- Withal = with
- Ye = You (yep, another one!)
- Simpkin = fool
- Shandy = empty-headed



Got it?

Turn your sheet over. "Translate" the 5 sentences into modern American English.