

Audition Speeches: Shakespeare

We would recommend looking at the following Shakespeare speeches for audition and/or short course preparation.

We have selected speeches from across the age range.

The speeches are listed under male and female characters, for ease of reference; however, you should feel free to choose whichever speech appeals to you.

MALE

Romeo (*Romeo and Juliet*)

Act 2 Sc1 “But soft, what light through yonder window breaks...?”

Act 3 Sc2 “Tis torture, and not mercy...”

Hamlet (*Hamlet*)

Act 1 Sc2 “O that this too too solid flesh would melt...”

Act 2 Sc2 “O, what a rogue and peasant slave am I...”

Act 3 Sc1 “To be, or not to be: that is the question...”

Act 3 Sc2 “Speak the speech, I pray you...”

Laertes (*Hamlet*)

Act 1 Sc 3 “For Hamlet and the trifling of his favour...”

Edmund (*King Lear*)

Act 1 Sc2 “Thou, nature, art my goddess...”

Benedick (*Much Ado About Nothing*)

Act 2 Sc1 “O, she misused me past the endurance of a block...”

Act 2 Sc3 “I do much wonder that one man...”

Act 2 Sc3 “This can be no trick...”

Launcelot Gobbo (*The Merchant of Venice*)

Act 2 Sc2 “Certainly my conscience will serve me...”

Iago (*Othello*)

Act 1 Sc3 “Thus do I ever make my fool my purse...”

Macbeth (*Macbeth*)

Act 1 Sc7 “If it were done when ’tis done...”

Cassius (*Julius Caesar*)

Act 1 Sc2 “Well, honour is the subject of my story...”

Mark Antony (*Julius Caesar*)

Act 3 Sc2 “Friends, Romans, countrymen...”

Enobarbus (*Antony and Cleopatra*)

Act 2 Sc3 “The barge she sat in, like a burnish'd throne...”

Leontes (*The Winter's Tale*)

Act 1 Sc2 “Inch thick, knee deep...”

Titus (*Titus Andronicus*)

Act V Sc2 “Come, come, Lavinia...”

Claudius (*Hamlet*)

Act 1 Sc2 “’Tis sweet and commendable in your nature, Hamlet...”

Act 3 Sc3 “O, my offence is rank, it smells to heaven...”

Malvolio (*Twelfth Night*)

Act 2 Sc5 “This simulation is not as the former...”

Leonato (*Much Ado About Nothing*)

Act 5 Sc1 “I pray thee, cease thy counsel...”

Richard, Duke of Gloucester (*King Henry VI Part III*)

Act 1 Sc4 “She-wolf of France, but worse than wolves of France...”

Polonius (*Hamlet*)

Act 1 Sc3 “There, my blessing with thee...”

Friar (*Romeo and Juliet*)

Act 3 Sc3 “Hold thy desperate hand...”

Antigonus (*The Winter’s Tale*)

Act 3 Sc3 “Come, poor babe: I have heard, but not believed...”

Jacques (*As You Like It*)

Act 2 Sc7 “All the world’s a stage...”

FEMALE

Juliet (*Romeo and Juliet*)

Act 2 Sc4 “The clock struck nine when I did send the nurse...”

Act 3 Sc2 “Gallop apace, you fiery-footed steeds...”

Act 4 Sc4 “Farewell! God knows when we shall meet again...”

Ophelia (*Hamlet*)

Act2 Sc1 “My lord, as I was sewing in my closet...”

Jailer’s Daughter (*The Two Noble Kinsmen*)

Act2 Sc4 “Why should I love this gentleman...?”

Phoebe (*As You Like It*)

Act 3 Sc5 “Think not I love him, though I ask for him...”

Helena (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream*)

Act 3 Sc2 “Lo, she is one of this confederacy...”

Viola (*Twelfth Night*)

Act 2 Sc2 “I left no ring with her...”

Isabella (*Measure For Measure*)

Act2 Sc4 “To whom should I complain...?”

Katherine (*The Taming Of The Shrew*)

Act 5 Sc2 “Fie, fie! Unknit that threat’ning unkind brow...”

Beatrice (*Much Ado About Nothing*)

Act 4 Sc1 "Is he not approved in the height a villain...?"

Portia (*Julius Caesar*)

Act 2 Sc1 "You've ungently, Brutus, stole from my bed..."

Goneril (*King Lear*)

Act 1 Sc3 "By day and night he wrongs me..."

Paulina (*The Winter's Tale*)

Act 3 Sc2 "What studied torments, tyrant, hast for me...?"

Lady Macbeth (*Macbeth*)

Act 1 Sc7 "Was the hope drunk wherein you dressed yourself...?"

Hermione (*The Winter's Tale*)

Act3 Sc2 "Sir, spare your threats..."

Cleopatra (*Antony and Cleopatra*)

Act 1 Sc5 "O, Charmian, Where think'st thou he is now...?"

Act 4 Sc16 "No more but e'en a woman..."

Queen Margaret (*King Henry VI Part III*)

Act 1 Sc4 "Come, make him stand upon this molehill here..."

Nurse (*Romeo and Juliet*)

Act 1 Sc 3 "Even or odd, of all days in the year..."