



## Teacher notes

# KS2 – Shakespearean Insults

In key stage 2, pupils should study the work of William Shakespeare. He was a master wordsmith and his plays contain language that we still use today. His writing contained many insults and cutting remarks that would make people wince even now! Use this resource to explore the language he used to insult, and to create your own Shakespearean insults and infer their meaning. It could be taught as part of a unit of work based on Shakespeare or as a fun lesson to celebrate his birthday in April.

### English Objectives covered are:

- to increase familiarity with fiction from our literary heritage
- to explore the meaning of words
- to make inferences, justifying these with evidence

### Resources included in this pack are:

- PowerPoint - teacher slides
  - Shakespearean Insult Cards
  - Insult worksheet
  - Shakespeare themed writing paper
- .....

### Introducing the task

Do the pupils know who William Shakespeare is? **Slide 3** of the **PowerPoint** displays this question and has an image of William Shakespeare.

**Slide 4** shows a brief biography of William Shakespeare to share with the pupils.

Explain that William Shakespeare used many insults in his plays.



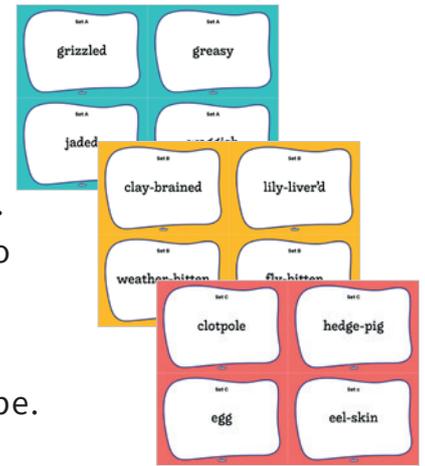
# Shakespeare

**Slide 5** introduces this idea and asks pupils – ‘Do you know what an insult is?’. The definition is displayed on **slide 6**. Explore the meaning of the insult shown on **slide 7**: ‘You have such a February face’. **Slide 8** shows what meaning could be inferred from the insult, together with information about which play the insult comes from and who says it. **Slide 9** shows another example for you to discuss: ‘Thou hast no more brain than I have in my elbow.’ **Slide 10** shows the meaning and play it comes from.

## Activities

### Activity 1

Use **slide 11** to introduce the task. Pupils must use the **Shakespearean Insult Cards** to create their own insults. Pupils must choose a card from each of sets A, B and C to create their insult and begin it with the word ‘Thou...’. Pupils can choose different cards in pairs or groups to create their insults, discussing what the meaning could be.



### Activity 2

Instructions are shown on **slide 12**. Pupils must write their favourite insult and draw a picture to show what the meaning could be and write an explanation of its meaning, using their inference skills. Pupils could complete this activity in their books, or alternatively, use the **Insults Worksheet** provided.



## Challenge

Instructions for this activity are shown on **slide 13**. Pupils are asked to imagine that they live in Shakespearean times. They must write a letter of complaint using Shakespearean insults. Pupils could use the **Shakespeare themed writing paper** to present their work.