

HIP HOP SHAKESPEARE

TED: Riveting talks by remarkable people, free to the world
<http://www.ted.com/>



TED is a non-profit organisation devoted to sharing “ideas worth spreading”. TED is an acronym for technology, entertainment and design, however since its birth in 1984, TED has come to encompass many areas of life where intelligent people have shared their thoughts and ideas. On the website is a plethora of talks and ideas of relevance today.

Akala is a hip-hop artist who started his own company in the UK, The Hip-Hop Shakespeare Company (THSC). In his 20 minute TED talk, he discusses links between language and power, Shakespeare and hip-hop, and knowledge and custody.

Watch the talk online: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSbtkLA3GrY>

1. Make some notes on the connections Akala makes between:

Language and power

Shakespeare and hip-hop

Knowledge and custody

2. What really stood out for you in Akala’s talk? Be prepared to share your response with the class.
3. How are language and power manipulated within Twelfth Night? Use evidence from the play to support your response.

EPIC RAP BATTLES OF HISTORY



Dr Seuss VS Shakespeare (a literature mash-up)

Watch the video below.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3w2MTXBebg>



In this vicious rap battle, Dr Seuss has unleashed Thing One and Thing Two. They have ended this rap battle on this note:

Man we'll cook you up and eat you with some ham and green eggs, break offa your legs, make no mistake we in a rage, all does not end well when we bust out our cage, you gettin' upstaged Bill, yo you just got played!

There is no way Shakespeare would let this fly.

His insults were second-to-none and his command of the English language far exceeds that demonstrated in the books of Dr Seuss. He also had an impressive command of intertextuality (shaping a text's meaning using other texts).

Your task: Shakespeare speaks back!

Individually, or in pairs, create the final verse as William Shakespeare, making reference to your studies in the unit so far (and specific reference to at least two elements of Twelfth Night). You will then record your rap battle as a podcast and upload to the Year 12 English wikispace. Make sure your rap lasts at least 20 seconds.

Websites that may help you

www.rhymezone.com

This site generates a list of rhyming words (monosyllabic *and* multisyllabic).

www.thesaurus.com

A world full of synonyms and antonyms at your disposal.

www.flocabulary.com

Helpful tips on how to structure a rap.

www.dictionary.com

Not sure what a word means? Look it up! Language is only powerful when used in the appropriate context.

<http://www.petelevin.com/shakespeare.htm>

A collection of the best Shakespearian insults for you to chop and change as you wish.

<http://www.20dollarbeats.com/freebeats/freebeats.php>

Free beats! Although not required for the task, if you'd like to rap to music this is a great site to start.