## Can you write like Shakespeare?

Shakespeare's plays are famous for the type of rhythm his characters speak in.

This rhythm is called lambic Pentameter.

## lambic what?

An iamb sounds like one short (or unstressed) syllable followed by one long (or stressed) syllable. Pentameter roughly means five in the line. So lambic Pentameter is five iambs added together to make a line with ten beats.... Five stressed, five not stressed.

## How does that sound?

When read aloud it creates a rhythm. Try saying this, putting the stress only on the words in bold.

da-dum da-dum da-dum da-dum

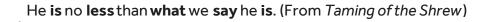
People use lambic Pentameter without even knowing. Look at these normal sentences:

Can you pleasebuy a bag of sweets to day

I saw an old man with a walk-ing stick

Try saying them stressing the bold syllables.





Lord **Ti**tus,**by** your **leave**, this **maid** is **mine**. (From *Titus Andronicus*)

Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May (From Sonnet 18)

## **Get Writing**

Now you know how lambic Pentameter works, why not try making some. Fill in the drawing below if that helps. The dots will be the stressed syllables and the dashes will not be stressed. There should be ten beats in total.



Now you can make your own lambic Pentameter, write a short poem and send it to us at playground@shakespearesglobe.com The Beasts might even put it in the share gallery.