

FUMC ESL 4-15-2019 Advanced Lesson More Shakespeare

Last time we looked at phrases William Shakespeare gave us. There are just so many great sayings from Shakespeare that I couldn't resist giving you a few more. There were 10 last week, so we'll start with number 11.

11. come what may: Come what may, I will finish my school project tonight.

12. laughing stock: I fell asleep in class and the teacher snuck up behind me and tapped me on the shoulder. It startled me and I turned my desk over when I jumped. I was the laughing stock of the whole class.

Describe a time when you or someone else was a laughing stock.

13. heart's content: On rainy days when it's too wet to work, I curl up on the couch and read to my heart's content.

What would you like to do to your heart's content?

14. star-crossed lovers: Shakespeare used this term referring to Romeo and Juliet. We still use it to mean unlucky. The stars (or gods) are against you. EX: Ben has been living in Chicago while his fiance lived in Houston. But now his fiance has been transferred to Rome. They will be even farther apart. They are star-crossed lovers.

Have you ever been a star-crossed lover?

15. sea change: The victory of Trump in the 2016 election represented a sea change in the direction of this country. I fear things will never be the same.

Have you ever experienced an event that led to a sea change in the direction of your life or your country's life?

16. like the dickens: A common way to use this expression is, "it hurt like the Dickens". We tend to think of the Victorian novelist, Charles Dickens, but the word dickens in earlier English meant the devil. So hurt like the Dickens means it hurt like the devil were tormenting you. We say, "What the dickens is that thing." "What the dickens" is like a very mild curse. Deuce is another example, "What the deuce is happening?" Of course a deuce in a card game is the number 2 card.

Do you have words for the devil in your language? Are they used as curse words?

17. a foregone conclusion: His conviction was a foregone conclusion. Everyone knew he was guilty. It was inevitable that the jury return with a guilty verdict.

In most trials, there really is a question of guilt. The jury must hear the evidence and decide. But when there has been a lot of publicity about a crime, or if it is a really heinous (detestable, wicked, evil, atrocious) crime, it is difficult to find a jury that hasn't already made up its mind about guilt. For this reason, defense attorneys can ask that the trial be moved to a different location where most people haven't heard of his client. This is called a "change of venue". Of course, if the crime makes the national news, that doesn't really work. So many people knew about the Boston Marathon bombing that the name Tsarnaev (the bomber's name) was on everyone's lips. The judge has to make sure he finds a jury of fair minded individuals.

And then you have the O.J. Simpson trial in which almost everyone presumed OJ was guilty, but he was an extremely famous and popular ex-football player who no one really wanted to be guilty. So in this case, a guilty verdict was not a foregone conclusion. He was found not guilty.

Has there ever been a famous crime in your country where people were sure the defendant was guilty, but a jury pronounced him/her not guilty?

18: it's high time: The phrase comes from the sun being high in the sky. In other words, there are only a few more hours of daylight, so we best get started. High time has the sense of being almost too late. EX: It's high time you showed up. Where have you been?

Some of Shakespeare's best quotes: Read your assigned quote. Tell what it means. Apply it to your life if possible. Read a quote from the list that you like better.

1-Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety

2-Give every man thy ear, but few thy voice.

3-Talking isn't doing. It is a kind of good deed to say well; and yet words are not deeds.

4-How poor are they that have not patience! What wound did ever heal but by degrees?

5-The robbed that smiles steals something from the thief.

6-How sharper than a serpent's teeth it is to have a thankless child.

7-I wasted time and now doth time waste me.

8-I never see thy face but I think upon hellfire.

9-Mind your speech a little, lest you should mar your fortunes.

10-Our doubts are traitors and make us lose the good we oft might win.