

18. LEARNING WORD FOR WORD (2)

Titania. *Out of this wood do not desire to go:
Thou shalt remain here, whether thou wilt or no.
I am a spirit of no common rate;
The summer still doth tend upon my state;
And I do love thee: therefore, go with me;
I'll give thee fairies to attend on thee,
And they shall fetch thee jewels from the deep,
And sing while thou on pressed flowers dost sleep;
And I will purge thy mortal grossness so
That thou shalt like an airy spirit go.
Peaseblossom! Cobweb! Moth! and Mustard seed!*

Just to recap: these are the focal points of the speech that were covered in Learning Word for Word part 1

1. WOOD
2. SPIRIT
3. LOVE
4. FAIRIES
5. PURGE
6. PC M&M

Once you have checked that you can remember the focal points we will now begin to memorize the subsidiary words of the speech. I have found that memorizing the first word is important just to 'fire' up the memory so against WOOD the first word is 'out'.

WOOD- Out of this wood do not desire to go:
Thou shalt remain here, whether thou wilt or no.

OUT – the best images are always those of solid nouns so as an image for out, I use, a solid noun which to me 'sounds like' sprout. This works for me, it may not for you, so just relax and observe what leaps into your imagination for the word 'out'. I have a picture of the trees in the wood hung with sprouts along with the buns for focal point one.

Out 'of this' is self-evident and your brain should supply it but at the first attempt at memorizing the short phrase I used 'the' wood rather than 'this' wood. For 'this' I use a 'sounds like' KISS'. Incidentally, 'this' and 'that' are very common and are small words that trip you up. I use 'HAT' for 'that'. This short phrase is a very good example of my word-for-word technique. I created an image glossary which is like another language but very easy to learn once you get the hang of it – a bit like hand signals but for the initiated word-for-word students.

So, our scene 1 is a wood hung with buns and sprouts which Titania – as the subject of this speech – kisses

Out of this wood

do not desire to go – the keywords here are the verbs 'desire to go'. For these, I look up my personal image glossary which saves me a lot of time. It now contains prefixes and suffixes and about 1600 words. I strongly suggest that you create one for yourself and later I will make my own available online.

Desire: Dee+Sire: Desiree (Name-People, Characters, Potato/Operetta/Film)

Desiree potatoes are a very strong image which you can also hang on the trees. The internet is very useful for words such as these and will give you the names of actresses called by that name. Not a help for me as I don't know them and so can't picture them. I do know and can picture Jack Dee with the grumpy face so I have him hanging up the potatoes and I might have him being knighted which would give me *Sire*. I have him in my glossary as a prefix and the fact that de- comes from the French, meaning down De- (F): down (decentralise): Jack Dee. All these suggestions are to help your imagination give you an image for the word 'desire' which is followed by 'to Go'. Go is a very common word which will come up again and again in speeches. I always use the Go temporary road sign plus a picture of cars shooting off when the traffic lights turn Green to Go. For Stop, I just change it around to cars squealing to a halt when they turn Red. So now we are left with 'do not'. If your brain has not supplied it automatically, then have Jack Dee twisting that potato into a knot.

So, the second scene is Jack Dee twisting a potato into a knot before turning a road sign onto the green GO.

do not desire to go

Does that all sound complicated? Maybe, but believe me, it works, and then all the scaffolding of the speech will fall away, and you will just 'know it' but if you get an awful blank, just think of Jack Dee in a wood kissing sprouts and knotting potatoes, whilst allowing traffic to pass with a Go sign.

The next part of the couplet is helpful because it rhymes.

Thou shalt remain here, whether thou wilt or no.

Easy to see that REMAIN is the next keyword.

I immediately thought of Eddie Redmayne for 'remain' and I decided to go with that image because it is the one that first leapt into my imagination. When you are searching for an image practice relaxing and allowing your brain to come up with a picture. For me, if it doesn't work immediately then I go to my glossary. In that I had *re+mane*. 'Re' is a prefix and for that, I had: *Re- (L): again, back (reappear): reef*. I know it works because I have used a reef again and again in memorizing words. I have now added Eddie Redmayne to my glossary which already had a lion with a mane standing on a coral reef.

Thou shalt – I use a seashell for shall and shalt. Thou – a plough if you need it.

It is useful to remember that in Shakespeare people of high status will address those beneath them as 'thou' and those of lower status will use 'you' with their superiors. However, in his plays, Shakespeare often mixes up this convention to give interesting subtexts and it is always well worth observing whether 'you' or 'thou' is used to get a better understanding of the text.

For 'here' I always use hair.

Thou shalt remain here,

Third scene – I decided to ditch Eddie Redmayne because I set this scene on a coral reef.

Bottom ploughs the shells on the reef, is chased by a lion with a flowing mane and uses scraps of mane for hair.

whether thou wilt or no.

The weather changes and he shelters under the plough, and his lettuce wilts under a fall of snow.

Wilt : *Lettuce wilting: Wilt* (Tom Sharp novel/film) – from my glossary

Your imagination could also make the connection of 'thou wilt' as a ploughman's lunch with wilting lettuce.

SPIRIT

We now move on to Titania's second idea – she describes who she is.

*I am a spirit of no common rate;
The summer still doth tend upon my state;*

Fortunately, again this couplet rhymes, so to add to SPIRIT we add the secondary words 'Common' and 'Rate'. Use a common if you can picture a familiar one or the House of Commons. I rather like putting Titania and her booze in the House of Commons. A definition of rate is 'a quantity, an amount' which is difficult to imagine in a way to give you the correct word. I decided to use Rat – which is a very strong image especially if you people the House of Commons with Rats.

So, scene 4 is Titania drinking spirits with the common rats.

I am a spirit of no common rate;

State rhymes with rate and so the State opening of parliament also works well with this scene.

The summer – looking up summer, I see that Summer Walker is an R&B singer. Unfortunately, I had never heard of her, so that image does not work for me, but looking in my glossary I see Ann Summers and that does work, so I now have all the women MPs and Titania dressed in flirty underwear.

Still – another of those small words and yet I know it is often used because I regularly use the image of a still from MASH (the tv series) and yeah! Doesn't that tie in well with spirit.

Doth – use a dove if you need it.

*Tend - **Tend***: *Tenderise (steak): Tender (engine)* – from my glossary

Upon my – Up (film) On – iron my – pie state – steak. – all common words from my glossary

Scene 5 – the women MPs and Titania are dressed in flirty underwear drinking from a still while a dove flutters above and they are tenderising a steak while an iron and a pie float up on balloons.

The summer still doth tend upon my state;

Barmy but a fun scene.

LOVE

And I do love thee: therefore, go with me;

Therefore, - the rhythm and sense of the line should give you this, other wise

Therefore : *Prayer Fore : Pear Fore* – from my glossary

I always use the golfing term for 'For' so Titania whacks a pear shouting 'fore' then Go with (sieve) me rhymes with the next line

Scene 6 - Abba sings 'I do, I do, I do' in the background while Titania gives Bottom the heart-shaped box of chocolates (LOVE). She follows this by whacking a pear and flipping the Go sign and hauls Bottom along whilst carrying a sieve. Note that I use the 'sounds like' image sieve for 'with' and also for 'give'.

FAIRIES

I'll give thee fairies to attend on thee,

Aisle (I'll), sieve (with, give) thee (sounds like sea) fairies two hat tend (attend) iron sea (on thee).

Scene 7 - They walk up the aisle, she is still carrying the sieve, the sea laps around them, and the fairies come with two hats and tenderise the steak with an iron lapped by the sea (note rhyme)

And they shall fetch thee jewels from the deep,

Begin by getting images for the following 3 words and with any luck your brain may fill in the remaining words

Fetch – I immediately thought of Fletcher (from Porridge) so I will try that for fetch

Jewels – Jewel is an American singer/songwriter. That image doesn't work for me, but Jewel is the name of a unicorn in one of my favourite books, and Jewels also work well with the thief Fletch

Deep – this is a rhyming word from the couplet. It is also a film about the sea called The Deep.

Scene 8 – Fletch on a unicorn with jewels as his swag swims through the deep sea

And sing while thou on pressed flowers dost sleep;

Sing - Characters from Disney film/sing sing jail

Pressed – flower press/newspaper men

Flowers - flowers

Sleep – rhyming word

Scene 9 – carry on the theme of Fletch the criminal, he is locked up in sing sing prison along with characters from Sing (if you need it). The prisoners are all pressing flowers in a flower press, while snapped by the press (if you need it). The flowers are all strewn on a dusty floor for Bottom to sleep on.

PURGE

And I will purge thy mortal grossness so

Mortal – moor tail

Grossness – Grocer Loch Ness monster (I often use Nessie when I need the suffix -ness, so I know it works)

So - sew

Scene 10 – a moor (the name given to Arabs, Berbers, and Muslim Europeans) with a tail carrying a huge purse pays for his groceries at the checkout served by Nessie who is sewing.

That thou shalt like an airy spirit go.

That - hat

Thou - plough

Shalt - shell

Like - lick

Airy - hairy

Spirit - spirit

Go – go (rhyming couplet)

Scene 11 – put a hat on Bottom who ploughs, picks up a shell and licks it, dries his hair with a hair dryer then drinks spirits before switching the Go road sign.

Much of this scene includes images that have been used before.

PC M&M

Pease blossom! Cobweb! Moth! and Mustard seed!

Scene 12 – the fairies dump a personal computer or peas and blossoms, cobwebs, moths, and mustard on the sleeping Bottom.

There you have 12 rather bizarre scenes. Trust me, once you have mastered them, the images will drop away like scaffolding from a finished building, and you will be left with the words of the text. But should you go blank, then just take a breath, remind yourself of the initial focal points and you should be back on track again. Notice that the most complicated part is 3 lines around the loveable rogue Fletch who goes to prison and two of those lines rhyme. Notice where the same images are used more than once even on this short speech. Always look for clues – associations that your brain will latch on to.

Good luck with this and later I will be publishing further popular texts from Shakespeare, the next beginning 'What a piece of work is a man' – a wonderful speech and marvellously rendered by Richard E Grant in 'Withnail and I'. I hope to see you then.