

Shakespearean Puns

1. *Richard III* (Act I scene 1)

“Now is the winter of our discontent
Made glorious summer by this sun of York...”

Context: These are the opening lines of *Richard III*. King Richard III was the son of the Duke of York.

2. *Romeo and Juliet* (Act I scene IV)

Romeo: “Give me a torch: I am not for this ambling.
Being but heavy, I will bear the light.”

Context: Romeo is reluctant to attend a party because he is suffering from a broken heart.

3. *Romeo and Juliet* (Act I scene IV)

Mercutio: “Nay, gentle Romeo, we must have you dance.”

Romeo: “Not I, believe me. You have dancing shoes
With nimble soles; I have a soul of lead
So stakes me to the ground I cannot move.”

Context: Romeo is reluctant to attend a party because he is suffering from a broken heart.

4. *Hamlet* (Act I scene II)

Claudius: “...But now, my cousin Hamlet, and my son...”

Hamlet: [*aside*] “A little more than kin, and less than kind.”

Context: Hamlet is upset that his uncle Claudius has married his mother. Hint: Think of “kind” as also short for “kindred.”

5. *Much Ado About Nothing* (Act II scene I)

Beatrice: “The count is neither sad, nor sick, nor merry, nor well: but civil, count; civil as an orange, and something of that jealous complexion.”

Context: Beatrice is referring to the character Claudio. Hint: There is a type of bitter orange that comes from Seville, Spain.