

RSC Playmaking Creative

Challenge #1: Orlando

INTRODUCTION

As You Like It takes place between two main locations – the Duke's Court and the Forest of Arden. Different characters throughout the play compare the two places. The court is a place of strict rules, authority, and constraints, whereas the Forest is a place of escape, romance and freedom.

At the beginning of *As You Like It*, Orlando complains about the way his brother Oliver treats him. Despite being a nobleman's son Orlando is treated like a servant and Oliver has withheld his rightful inheritance.

In this speech, Orlando is complaining to an old servant called Adam about how unfair his situation is. While Oliver has sent his other brother, Jaques, away to school he has forced Orlando to live with the animals.

CHALLENGE

Read through the speech. What words stand out to you after reading it once? Have another go, this time reading aloud and ideally standing up. We have broken the speech up into sections, you might choose to look at the whole speech or just focus on one or two lines.

Try adding expression to your voice, thinking how (as an actor does) you might say the lines so that an audience understands what is happening for Orlando and how he feels about it.

Things to bear in mind:

- Look for key words and images that Orlando uses to describe his thoughts and feelings.
- Where could he be – in a particular room or the garden perhaps?
- How does he feel about Oliver – e.g. does he trust or fear him? How about Adam?
- What might Orlando be doing physically during these speech – is he sitting down, standing up, pacing about?

Remember, there's no one right choice, so try out different ideas. Look for clues in the words and use your imagination.

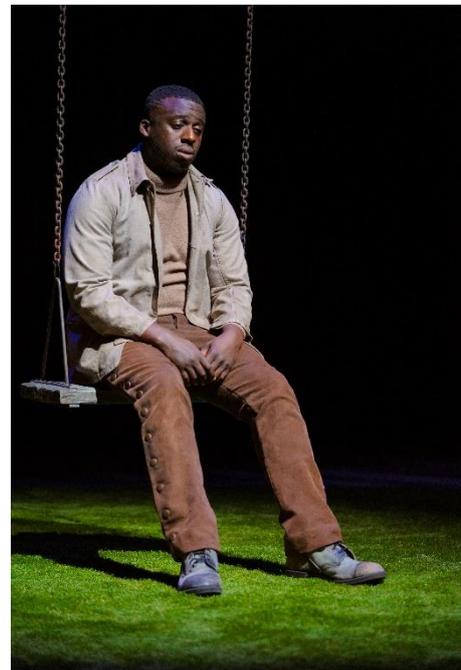


Photo by Topher McGrillis ©RSC

IF YOU WANT TO

If you'd like to go a step further, try learning some of the lines and filming yourself. Then, if you are happy to share it, send your video to us and we may include it in our Playmaking Festival 2020 film.

Please remember when submitting video content¹:

- Schools must have full permissions from parents before sending video to the RSC
- Do not submit material that uses or discloses a student's full name
- Do not film or submit things that might reveal a young person's exact address, school or somewhere they go regularly (e.g. a sports club or activity)
- Do not film anyone else under the age of 18
- Make sure you wear appropriate clothing
- Remember to keep yourselves safe – i.e. do not share content that feels too personal, complicated or sad.

For safeguarding reasons, please can home learners submit any videos to school. The Lead Teacher can then pass on to us and we can confirm permissions for any video used in our final film.

Some video files can be very large so you may need to compress the file or use a platform like WeTransfer or Dropbox.

Send any videos to Playmaking@rsc.org.uk rather than individual members of the team.

Thank you and have fun!

¹ More information can be found in our Online Safeguarding Guidelines

AS YOU LIKE IT (Act 1, Scene 1 – edited)

Enter Orlando and Adam, an old servant.

ORLANDO

As I remember, Adam, it was charged my brother to breed me well: and there begins my sadness.

My brother Jaques he keeps at school, and report speaks goldenly of his profit. For my part, he keeps me rustically at home. His horses are bred better.

He lets me feed with his hinds and bars me the place of a brother. This is it, Adam, that grieves me. And the spirit of my father, which I think is within me, begins to mutiny against this servitude.

I will no longer endure it, though yet I know no wise remedy how to avoid it.