

ACT 2 SCENE (4) - [VARIES WITH EDITIONS]	NO OF LINES: 69	TIME ^(approx) : 4 min 50 sec	OBSERVATIONS ON MORE’S FAMOUS ‘REFUGEE’ SPEECH
<div><div>~ DEMO no CAESURAS ~</div><div><i>London</i></div><div>[<i>Time of day xxx</i>]</div><div><i>CROWD</i> (of the prevailing mood)</div><div>1-76: <u>Remove the strangers !</u></div><div><i>MORE</i></div><div>77: Grant them remov’d, and grant that this your noise LE</div><div>78: Hath chid down all the majesty of England ; ¹¹</div><div>79: Imagine that you see the wretched strangers ¹¹</div><div>80: (Their babies at their backs and their poor luggage)</div><div>81: Plodding to th’ ports and coasts for transportation ; ¹¹</div><div>82: And that you sit as kings in your desires,</div><div>83: Authority quite silenc’d by your brawl,</div><div>84: And you in ruff of your opinions clothed ;</div><div>85: <u>What had you got?</u> ⁴</div><div>85: I’ll tell you : you had taught LEV</div><div>86: How insolence and strong hand should prevail,</div><div>87: How order should be quell’d ; and by this pattern ¹¹ LE</div><div>88: Not one of you should live an agèd man—</div><div>89: For other ruffians (as their fancies wrought) ^{11x}</div><div>90: With self same hand, self reasons, and self right,</div><div>91: Would shark on you ; and men like rav’nous fishes ¹¹ LE</div><div>92: <u>Would feed on one another.</u> ⁷</div><div><i>DOLL</i></div><div>93: Before God, that’s as true as the Gospel.</div><div><i>LINCOLN</i></div><div>94: Nay, this is a sound fellow, I tell you—let’s mark him.</div></div>			

Observations are split in two parts – General and Specifics. Specifics are performance clues embedded in the text line by line. For a list of the type of clues see Specifics below . Then go to the matching [ePlay resource](#) for this speech which shows all those clues line by line in an attractive, easy-to-grasp, colour format. The ePlay also has the definitions. The ePlays can be studied privately or shared with a class or workshop with the use a projector.

GENERAL

CONTEXT / SITUATION

- Sheriff More (he is not yet ‘Sir’ Thomas More) is addressing a mix mob of educated and uneducated people who are calling for the expulsion of immigrants who they believe threaten their way of life
- The situation is dangerous
- While admonishing them Sheriff More must also reason with them through force of logic
- He refers to them as ‘good friends’, not ‘*you blocks, you stones, you worse than senseless things*’ as Murellus does in a similar mob situation in *Julius Caesar* (Act 1:1)
- There are references to God. Elizabethans genuinely feared God, divine retribution and eternal damnation

Our Tip






The temptation to be angry throughout should be avoided. It will sound shrill. The actor needs to imagine that he has at all costs to *persuade and convince*, rather than berate and hector. As always in Shakespeare delivery it is a fusion of intellect and emotion. It is about balance. Emotion should never drown the argument. That is not to say one cannot be highly charged, but at specific moments – be sparing. Less is more.

SHAPE OF SPEECH

- More’s speech is very long; it would tolerate cuts
 - It has many mid-line endings, common to later Shakespeare, to encourage the actor not to take excessive pauses after full-stops (i.e. ‘get on with it’).
 - The speech has three distinct phases:
 - Lines 77-92
 - Lines 95-118
 - Lines 119-146
- The gear changes at 95 and 119 are marked by the gear change sign ⚙. Note, however, there is variation and ‘mini-phases’ within this larger pattern.

TEXT

The language is comparatively simple and straightforward and readily understood today.

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<p>MORE </p> <p>95: Let me set up before your thoughts, good friends,</p> <p>96: On supposition ; which if you will mark,</p> <p>97: You shall perceive how horrible a shape LE</p> <p>98: <u>Your insurrection bears.</u> ⁶   [FF]</p> <p>98: First, ’tis a sin !</p> <p>99: Which oft the apostle did forewarn us of,</p> <p>100: Urging obedience to authority ; ^{11x}</p> <p>101: And ’twere no error, if I told you all,</p> <p>102: <u>You were in arms against your God Himself !</u></p> <p>ALL</p> <p>103: Marry, God forbid that ! ^{6a} </p> <p>MORE</p> <p>104: Nay, certainly you are ; ^{6b}</p> <p>105: For to the king God hath his office lent LE</p> <p>106: Of dread, of justice, power and command ;</p> <p>107: Hath bid him rule, and willed you to obey ;</p> <p>108: And—to add ampler majesty to this—</p> <p>109: He hath not only lent the king His figure, ¹¹</p> <p>110: His throne, His sword, but giv’n him his own name,</p> <p>111: <u>Calls him ‘a god on earth’.</u> ⁶</p> <p>111: What do you then—</p> <p>112: Rising ’gainst him that God Himself installs—</p> <p>113: <u>But rise ’gainst God?</u> ⁴</p> <p>113: What do you to your souls LE</p> <p>114: <u>In doing this?</u> ⁴</p> <p>114: O desp’rate as you are,</p> <p>115: Wash your foul minds with tears ; and those same</p> <p>hands—</p> <p>116: That you like rebels lift against the peace—</p>			<p>WORD / PHRASE SUBSTITUTIONS</p> <p>We have made some modest word substitutions to make certain bits clearer to audiences e.g. ‘<i>on leash</i>’ for ‘<i>in lyam</i>’. (In substituting we always preserve the metre and, if possible, the alliteration and assonance too). Check the ePlay for more substitutions. If you want to reverse our substitutions, please do so. Take charge and make the speech your own.</p> <p>‘False friends’. The speech has four ‘false friends’ which we denote in the margin with the symbol [FF]. For the purpose of this demo speech we have taken the liberty of modernising it (indicated by the infinity sign  placed before [FF]). Check the ePlay for the original word or phrase.</p> <p>Definition: <i>False friends are words that look familiar to us today but actually meant something (or could mean something) quite different in Shakespeare’s day.</i></p> <p>VOICE</p> <p>Shouting at the mob for 69 lines will wreck your voice and be intolerable for the audience. So play around with the ‘persuasion / admonishment’ mix. Find places to change the volume, rhythm and pitch – hear the audio example for ideas</p> <p>AUDIO CAVEAT</p> <p>The audio is only our take on the day the recording happened to be made. It represents ‘work-in-progress’. Tomorrow we’d do it differently. You’ll notice some little inconsistencies, a bum note and slips of the tongue just as might happen in live performance. Our recordings are emphatically not definitive and should be treated with a healthy dose of critical detachment – even cynicism!</p> <p>That said, our methodology and approach, based on the work of the greatest exponents of Shakespeare speaking, is sound. It can be applied to any speech or part to yield consistently above-average, professional results. We leave the truly inspirational, virtuoso stuff to you.</p> <p>GESTURE / ILLUSTRATION</p> <p>More’s speech invites a lot of gesture, but be specific. Suit the action to the word, the word to the action.</p> <p>SCALE</p> <p>Know what space you will be playing in. A smaller, more intimate space requires smaller gestures and more subtle vocals. Try the speech two ways. First imagine you are playing to a huge arena (but don’t push your voice, you’ll wreck it). Then try it again to (imaginary) family in the kitchen – enrol your pet if you have to!</p>

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117: Lift up for peace ; and your unrev’rent knees LE	
118: <u>Make them your feet to kneel to be forgiven !</u> 11 o	
⏮	
119: Tell me but this : ▼ what rebel captain— 9 > 11	
120: As mut’nies are like to hap—by his name LE o	∞ [FF]
121: Can still the rout? <u>Who will obey a traitor?</u> 11	
122: Or how can well that proclamation sound	
123: When there is no addition but a ‘rebel’ 11 LE	
124: <u>To qualify a rebel?</u> 7e > 6	
124: You’ll put down strangers, (11 > 10) x	
125: Kill them, cut their throats, possess their houses, (10 > 11) x	
126: And lead the majesty of law on leash LE o	
127: <u>To slip him like a hound.</u> 6	
127: Say now the king	
128: (As he is clement if th’ offender mourn)	
129: Should so much come too short of your great trespass 11 LE	
130: As merely t’ banish you—whith’r would you go? o	∞ [FF]
131: What country—by the nature of your error— 11	
132: <u>Should give you harbor?</u> 5e > 4	
132: Go you to France or Flanders ; 11	
133: To any German province ; Spain or Portugal ; 12	
134: Nay, anywhere that not adheres to England— 11	
135: <u>Why, you must needs be strangers.</u> 7e > 6	
135: Would you be pleased LEV	
136: To find a nation of such barb’rous temper, 11	
137: That breaking out in hideous vi-o-lence 11x (9-10)	
138: Would not afford you an abode on earth?	
139: Whet their detested knives across your throats? o	[HWET]
140: Spurn you like dogs? and like as if that God LE	
141: <u>Owened not, nor made not you ?</u> 6	∞ [FF]

AUDITIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none">For auditions, cutting this lengthy speech essential – 30-35 lines max.
<div>Our Tip</div> <div>Make the judges the mob and persuade <i>them</i>.</div>
<div>SPECIFICS</div> <p>You will find a wealth of performance-specific information in our ePlay resource. These are attractive PDFs with in-depth annotation and notation using helpful, easy-to-grasp graphics. They can be used for private study or projected on a wall for group study. The ePlays are distinct from our printable theatre scripts seen left which are A4, 1.5 spacing, Arial font 12 for easy reading and mark-up (just grab anything that interests you from the ePlay resource). Note as well that, as illustrated here, we ‘explode’ the text (much like an exploded pie-chart). When first getting to grips with a speech this makes it far easier and quicker to discern its shape and evolution.</p> <p><i>For an attractive slide-show that explains the significance of the Shakespeare-related terms below citing numerous examples, please visit the PPP demo at www.versebuster.com</i></p> <p>The ePlay marks up (list not exhaustive):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">the syllable count for each verse line > one can immediately distinguish between regular lines, feminine endings and irregular ones, short or longall repetitions, antitheses, puns, etc. > important not to miss these and their frequent interconnectionmonosyllabic as opposed to polysyllabic lines; long vowels as opposed to short vowels; trochaic rhythms (TUM-ti) versus iambic rhythms (ti-TUM), elisions, etc. > all of which impact on the pace of lines (or sections of lines – the first half might be slow, the second half quick, or vice-versa)caesuras (or caesurae) > places in the line that are natural sense breaks and benefit from pointing up. They are also places to top up of breath (if so required). For ‘pointing up’, picture a pole supporting a clothes line (a verse line) on which is hung a great variety of clothes (words of different weight and shape)those verse-line endings that have potential for rhetorical (dramatic) suspense > actors are in the business of being compelling and making an audience want to listen to their character. Tease them, draw them in!interesting switches between:<ul style="list-style-type: none">forms of address > status games: clue to shifting attitudes<ul style="list-style-type: none">‘you’ and ‘thou’titles and epithetsverse and prose > clue to sincerity versus insincerity; to openness versus disguise; to sanity rather than madness, etc. (Note that verse and prose are far less to do with status as many

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<div>141: Nor that the elements ¹²LE</div> <div>142: Were not all appropr’ate to your comforts, ^{10x}</div> <div>143: <u>But charter’d unto them?</u> ⁶</div> <div>143: What would you think ^{LEV}</div> <div>144: <u>To be thus used?</u> ⁴</div> <div>144: This is the strangers’ case ;</div> <div>145: <u>And this your mountanish inhumanity.</u> ^{11x} o</div>				<div>imagine – Hamlet, a prince, interchanges between both)</div> <div>o complex and simple language > another clue to sincerity or guile; or to the articulation of difficult emotions; or to pomposity, or to hyperbole, etc.</div> <div>• alternative stage directions > there can be huge differences between popular texts (Arden, Penguin, Cambridge, Oxford, etc.) as to:<div>o the placement of entrances and exits</div><div>o the type of action (if any) at a given moment</div><div>o who speaks certain lines (known as ‘Speech Headers’)</div><div>o whom lines are addressed (an ‘aside’ or ‘not an aside’; to one person or all?)</div><div>o and so forth.</div></div> <div>Empower yourself and pick the stage directions that work best for you</div> <div>• alternative text and line layout > in heavily disputed texts like <i>Richard III</i> and <i>King Lear</i> there are many textual variations between editions. Pick the best and leave the rest! If you are familiar with the original texts – ‘Quarto’ and ‘Folio’ – you can also compare these alongside the modern. If you’re not familiar with these do not panic! Versebuster’s own text serves the actor very well. It is sensitive to all the well-known and lesser-known textual disputes. Ours is very much an <i>actor’s</i> script as opposed to a <i>school-room</i> script, but certainly it is still very usable and intelligible in a school or college environment.</div> <div>• ‘false friends’ > these are words that mean today the opposite of, or something significantly different from, their original sense; which, of course, would be very misleading and confusing. Famously ‘<i>doubt</i>’ could mean ‘<i>fear</i>’. In <i>Richard III</i> there are two occasions when ‘<i>leisure</i>’ is better understood as ‘<i>pressure</i>’ – but on a third occasion it can be understood in its modern sense! (In this case we made the substitution for you, but typically we simply provide suggestions and it’s up to you). To alert you in the theatre script we use [FF] in the margin; you then check the ePlay</div> <div>• scansion > Shakespeare’s dramatic verse is somewhat different to his poetic verse. The Sonnets scan meticulously, the plays irregularly. Modern editions can be very ‘hit and miss’ with solutions. Some barely bother because their book is intended for students not actors. In <i>Richard III</i>’s opening soliloquy there are three non-scanning lines. One of these requires that, technically speaking, the actor contracts / elides ‘vir-tu-ous’ (3 sybs) to ‘virt-chus’ (2 sybs). Ignore or respect? There is no easy answer. The debate on scansion is much coloured by ever-changing tastes in verse-speaking, as well as the modern aversion to rules.<div>At Versebuster we rather like rules as it means we know where we stand technically, or <i>ought</i> to stand. Armed with this knowledge we can then occasionally break the rule from a position of <i>informed choice</i>.</div><div>We dispute rules stifle creativity. In Olympic ice-skating the skater may not suddenly don a pair of roller-blades instead; they may not do a double toe loop outside the parameters of the rink; they may not fall over. Despite these irksome restrictions many skaters deliver sublime performances. So it is with Shakespeare.</div><div>Our system offers you informed choice. You choose which rule you (generally) will honour and which you will ignore or break. In any case, not all rules are equal; some rules trump other rules. See our Powerpoint presentations to found out more.</div></div>