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# Men's Clothing

In Elizabethan times men's clothing was as colorful as that of the ladies, but men wanted to look manly, so they wore clothing in the shape of armor with broad shoulders, broad hips, and narrow waists. It could be compared to a suit of armor.

- ❖ *Doublet*: like a breastplate, covers back and chest, ridges down front; wings at shoulders
- ❖ *Sleeves*: separate garments, tight at wrists
- ❖ *Hose*: covered the body from waist down
- ❖ *Ruff*: stiffly starched ruffles at the neck, usually white
- ❖ *Hats*: of many different shapes, usually had a band, worn indoors
- ❖ *Cloaks*: capes
- ❖ *Gowns*: like cloaks but closed in front, fitted at the shoulders

The doublet was stuffed with horsehair, wool, or rags so it would keep its shape. The sleeves were tied to the doublet with laces. The upper parts of the hose were stuffed to make them stick out. Sometimes breeches, or *Venetians*, were worn over the hose. Cloaks, worn over the doublet, were very fashionable and made in different lengths but were usually short. Hats were worn indoors to keep warm.



# The Soliloquy

A speech in which a character tells his innermost thoughts is called a *soliloquy*. Read these two famous soliloquies. The first one is from the play *Hamlet*, which the young prince of Denmark (Hamlet) gives when he learns that his uncle has murdered Hamlet's father and then married his mother. The second is given by Richard III, telling the audience what kind of man he is. After reading them, choose one or more of the following activities.

1. Read the soliloquies carefully and then choose one and write a rendition of it in modern English. Do not try to render it word for word, because that might get you totally bogged down. Rather, write what you think the character is really thinking. What is he feeling when he says these words? What is he planning to do or thinking of doing?
2. Choose one of the soliloquies, and write a paragraph description of the character who speaks the lines. Use lines from the soliloquy to support your judgment of the character. What kind of person is he? How can you tell? Is he good or evil? Is he kind or gentle? Given what he says about himself, what do you think he looks like? Do you think his looks have anything to do with his outlook on life? Would you want to have this character for a friend? Why?
3. Memorize one of the soliloquies, or another one from a different play, and present it to the class.



## Hamlet's Soliloquy

### Act III, Scene i

To be, or not to be—that is the question.  
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,  
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles  
And by opposing end them? To die: to sleep;  
No more; and by a sleep to say we end  
The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks  
That flesh is heir to, 'tis a consummation  
Devoutly to be wish'd. To die, to sleep—  
To sleep, perchance to dream. Ay, there's the rub,  
For in that sleep of death what dreams may come  
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,  
Must give us pause. There's the respect  
That makes calamity of so long life.