

## Three Famous Speeches

### Winston Churchill - *We shall fight on the beaches* 1940 (Prime minister of Britain during WWII)

...we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this Island or a large part of it were **subjugated** and starving, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British **Fleet**, would carry on the struggle, until, in God's good time, the New World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old.



**Subjugated:** taken control of, dominated

**Fleet:** a number of warships

### Elizabeth I - *Speech to the Troops* 1588 (Queen of England during Tudor times)

I am come amongst you, as you see, at this time, not for my **recreation and disport**, but being resolved, in the midst and heat of the battle, to live and die amongst you all; to lay down for my God, and for my kingdom, and my people, my honour and my blood, even in the dust. I know I have the body but of a weak and feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England too. I myself will take up arms, I myself will be your general, judge, and rewarder of every one of your **virtues** in the field.



**Recreation and disport:** amusement, fun

**Virtues:** good qualities

### William Lyon Phelps - *The Pleasure of Books* 1933 (American speaker and university lecturer)

A borrowed book is like a guest in the house; it must be treated with **punctiliousness**, with a certain **considerate formality**. You must see that it sustains no damage; it must not suffer while under your roof. You cannot leave it carelessly, you cannot mark it, you cannot turn down the pages, you cannot use it familiarly. And then, some day, although this is seldom done, you really ought to return it.



**Punctiliousness:** care

**Considerate formality:** kind/proper behaviour

## Thinking about Three Famous Speeches

Read the speeches carefully.

Answer the questions below in your book.

\* short answer of one or two words

\*\* medium answer - explain in a sentence or two

\*\*\* longer answer - explain in a few sentences/short paragraph

### Winston Churchill

1. What phrase is repeated most in this speech? Why does he use repetition? \*\*
2. *...in God's good time...*  
What effect is created by this alliteration? \*\*
3. What difficulty does Churchill predict and how does he make it seem less of a problem? \*\*\*  
HINT: Three different ways.

### Elizabeth I

4. What images to do with the human body does she use and to what effect? \*\*
5. Find an example of Elizabeth using contrast in her speech. Why does she use it? \*\*
6. What problem does Elizabeth have as a leader of this time and how does she make it seem less important? \*\*

### William Lyon Phelps

7. What simile does Phelps use to describe a borrowed book? How is this imagery effective? \*\*
8. What modal verbs does he use and how do they make him more persuasive? \*\*
9. How is Phelps speech very different to the others? Why do you think that is? \*\*

### All Three

10. Why do you think that two of the speeches refer to God? How do they use this to make their speeches more persuasive? \*\*
11. Which speech do you think is most persuasive? Explain why giving examples. \*\*\*

### GRAMMAR CHALLENGES:

- Highlight all of the modal verbs.
- Substitute them for other modal verbs to change the tone (uncertain, advisory).