

*From: "Kiss Me Kate"*

# **Brush Up Your Shakespeare**

by

COLE PORTER

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# BRUSH UP YOUR SHAKESPEARE

Words and Music by  
COLE PORTER

**Bowery waltz tempo**

The piano introduction is in 3/4 time, marked *mp*. It features a waltz-like melody in the right hand with eighth and sixteenth notes, and a simple bass line in the left hand. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

*Vamp till ready*  
F

Gm

Am

C(add9)

The

The first line of the song begins with a vocal melody on the word "The". The piano accompaniment is in 3/4 time, marked *pp*. It features a waltz-like melody in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

F

girls to - day, in so - ci - e - ty, go for clas - si - cal

The piano accompaniment for the second line of the song is in 3/4 time, marked *p*. It features a waltz-like melody in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

C7

po - et - ry, so, to win their hearts, one must quote with ease

The piano accompaniment for the third line of the song is in 3/4 time. It features a waltz-like melody in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

F

Aes - chy-lus and Eu - rip - i - des. One must know Ho - mer, and

C7

b'lieve me, Bo, Soph - o - cles, al - so Sap - pho - ho. Un -

less you know Shel - ley and Keats and Pope, Dain - ty Deb - bies will

F C/E F(b5) C/E C/G

call you a dope. But the po - et of them all, who will

F(b5) C7 F(b5)

start 'em sim - ply rav - in' is the po - et peo - ple

*tr.*

3

C G7 C C7

call "The bard of Strat - ford - on - A - von."

*f* *sf* *8vb*

7

Play 3 times

F D7 G7 C7

1. Brush up your Shake - speare, start quot - ing him  
2. Brush up your Shake - speare, start quot - ing him  
3. Brush up your Shake - speare, start quot - ing him

*mf*

F Bb F G7

now. Brush up your Shake - speare and the wom - en  
now. Brush up your Shake - speare and the wom - en  
now. Brush up your Shake - speare and the wom - en

C7 F D7 G7

you will wow. Just de - claim a few lines for O - thel - la  
 you will wow. With the wife of the Brit - ish Em - bess - i - da  
 you will wow. If you can't be a ham and do Ham - let,

C7 F Bb

and they'll think you're a hell - uv - a fel - la, if your blonde won't re -  
 try a crack out of Troi - lus and Cress - i - da, if she says she won't  
 they will not give a damn or a damn - let, just re - cite an oc -

F G7 C7

spond when you flat - ter 'er, tell her what To - ny told Cle - o - pat - er - er. If she  
 buy it or tike — it, make her tike it, what's more, As You Like It. If she  
 cas - sion - al son - net, and your lap - 'll have "Hon - ey" up - on it. When your

F D7 G7 C7

fights when her clothes you are muss - ing, what are clothes? Much A -  
 says your be - hav - ior is hei - nous, kick her right in the  
 ba - by is plead - ing for pleas - ure, let her sam - ple your

F D7 G7

do A - bout Nuss - ing. Brush up your Shake - speare  
 Cor - i - o - la - nus. Brush up your Shake - speare  
 Meas - ure for Meas - ure. Brush up your Shake - speare

1.2. F C7 F C7 F C7

and they'll all kow - tow.  
 and they'll all kow - tow.  
 and they'll all kow -

F Gm7 C7 1.3. F G F/C

tow. For - sooth, and they'll all

C7 F G7 C7 F C7 F

kow - tow. I' faith, and they'll all kow - tow.

*Additional Lyrics:**Refrain 4:*

Brush up your Shakespeare,  
 Start quoting him now.  
 Brush up your Shakespeare  
 And the women you will wow.  
 Better mention "The Merchant of Venice"  
 When her sweet pound o' flesh you would menace.  
 If her virtue, at first, she defends — well,  
 Just remind her that "All's Well That Ends Well."  
 And if still she won't give you a bonus,  
 You know what Venus got from Adonis!  
 Brush up your Shakespeare  
 And they'll all kowtow.

*Refrain 5:*

Brush up your Shakespeare,  
 Start quoting him now.  
 Brush up your Shakespeare  
 And the women you will wow.  
 If your goil is a Washington Heights dream,  
 Treat the kid to "A Midsummer Night's Dream."  
 If she then wants an all-by-herself night,  
 Let her rest ev'ry 'leventh or "Twelfth Night."  
 If because of your heat she gets huffy,  
 Simply play on and "Lay on, MacDuffy!"  
 Brush up your Shakespeare  
 And they'll all kowtow.