# Audio file – “Conveying emotion, with excerpts from Hamlet”

[11-Track-11.mp3](https://neagov-my.sharepoint.com/personal/travisd_arts_gov/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/11-Track-11.mp3)

Dana Gioia

Any effective actor or public speaker learns how to infuse language with emotion. The same words spoken with different emotional tones have a very different effect on the listener.

In learning to recite poetry, you need to choose the emotion or emotions you want to convey. Listen to these three different versions of a few famous lines from William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. First, you'll hear actor James Earl Jones, then Michael York, and finally Mel Gibson.

James Earl Jones

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.

Michael York

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.

Mel Gibson

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,

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Notice how different the same words sounded in each version. Actors do the same thing as singers. They cover their words with emotion. Sometimes you'll want to cover a single line, sometimes the entire poem.