

VIRTUAL DATE NIGHT

DALLAS MUSEUM OF ART



AN EPIC MAD LIB!

Adventurous couples may have a special appreciation for epic poems that tell lengthy stories about extraordinary characters on dramatic and heroic journeys.

This painting captures a moment in *Jerusalem Delivered*, an epic poem written by Torquato Tasso in 1581, when the Muslim princess Erminia meets a family of shepherds along her quest to find the knight she loves, Tancred. Later in the story (spoiler alert!) she finds Tancred wounded in the forest and professes her love for him in an impassioned speech. The passage below is from this scene in the narrative.

Rewrite this excerpt from *Jerusalem Delivered* together to create a new, and likely very funny, love letter. Have one person read out loud only the italicized words while keeping the rest of the story a secret. The second person will provide words that fit the italicized commands. When all of the italicized words have been replaced, read the revised speech aloud.

DARING PAIRING

"I never thought that to mine body part plural, my dear,
Thou couldst have adjective or adjective been;
But now would adjective or rather dead I were,
That thy adjective plight might be unknown, unseen!
Exclamation! where is thy noun and adjective ending in "ing" noun?
Where are thine eyes' adjective beams and sparkles sheen?
Of thy adjective cheek where is the color,
And forehead's color-ness? are all gone, all dead?

"Though gone, though dead, I love thee still, behold;
Death simple verb, but simple verb not love; yet if thou live,
adjective soul, still in his breast, my follies adjective
Ah, simple verb love's desires, and adverb forgive;
Grant me from his adjective mouth some kisses adjective,
Since death doth love of adjective plural noun deprive;
And of thy spoils adjective death afford me this,
Let me his mouth, adjective, adjective, and adjective, kiss.

"O adjective mouth! with speeches adjective and adjective
Thou didst simple verb my grief, my woe and pain,
Ere my adjective soul from this adjective body fleet,
Ah, simple verb me with one dear noun or twain!
Perchance if we alive had happed to simple verb,
They had been given which now are stolen, Exclamation,
O adjective life, betwixt his body part plural out fly,
Oh, let me simple verb thee first, then let me die!

"Receive my adjective ending in "ing" noun, and with thine
Guide it to a place, where all true love hath place:"
This said, she sighed, and past tense verb her plural noun fine,
And from her body part number plural noun poured on his body part,
The man verb past tense, with those plural noun adjective
Awaked, and past tense verb his lips a space;
His body part plural were open; but fast shut his body part plural,
And with her sighs, one sigh from him upflies.

Adapted from: Tasso, Torquato. Jerusalem Delivered. The Project Gutenberg EBook, 1581.

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