

Rallying the Troops

In 1588, with the Spanish Armada preparing to invade England, Queen Elizabeth I addressed her troops in one of most famous speeches in history. Read through the speech below.

My loving people, we have been persuaded by some, that are careful of our safety, to take heed how we commit ourselves to armed multitudes, for fear of 1; but I assure you, I do not desire to live to distrust my faithful and 2 people. Let 3 fear; I have always so behaved myself that, under God, I have placed my chiefest 4 and safeguard in the loyal 5 and good will of my subjects. And therefore I am come amongst you at this time, not as for my recreation or 6, but being resolved, in the midst and 7 of the 8, to live or die amongst you all; to lay down, for my God, and for my 9, and for my people, my honour and my 10, even the dust. I know I have but the body of a weak and feeble 11; but I have the heart of a 12, and of a king of 13, too; and hink foul scorn that Parma or 14, or any prince of Europe, should dare to invade the borders of my realms: to which, rather than any dishonour should grow by me, I myself will take up 15; I myself will be your 16, judge, and rewarder of every one of your virtues in the field. I know already, by your forwardness, that you have deserved rewards and crowns; and we do assure you, on the word of a prince, they shall be duly paid you. In the mean my lieutenant general shall be in my stead, than whom never prince commanded a more noble and worthy subject; not doubting by your obedience to my general, by your concord in the camp, and by your valour in the field, we shall shortly have a famous 17 over the enemies of my 18, of my kingdom, and of my people.

Number these words to their position in the speech.

hearts

kingdom

battle

blood

treachery

woman

king

sport

loyal

tyrants

England

arms

victory

Spain

God

general

strength

heat

In 1588 the people of England are scared. Can you make posters to go up in the villages, where people will not have heard the Queen's speech? Remember that many people at the time can't read.