

## 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.



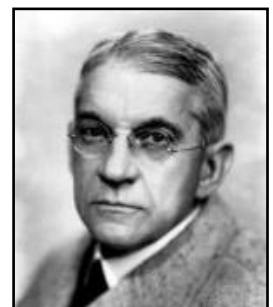
**Recreation and disport** - amusement, fun

**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

## Three Famous Speeches - Questions



Winston Churchill

1. What phrase is repeated most in this speech?  
Why does he use repetition?

*...in God's good time...*

2. Why do you think he uses this alliteration?
3. What difficulty does Churchill predict and how does he make it seem less of a problem?



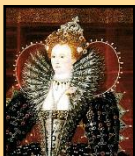
Elizabeth I

4. What is happening at the time of this speech?
5. Find an example of Elizabeth using contrast in her speech.  
Why does she use it?
6. What words to do with the human body does she use  
and why?



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?



10. Which speech do you think is the most persuasive?  
Explain why, giving examples.