

## **King John abbreviated**

Act 2, Scene 1

### **Suggestion**

**Situation:** King John makes his case to the citizens of Angiers that they should recognize him as England's king. The French king, having taken young Arthur by the hand, then makes his argument to Angiers' citizens that they should recognize Arthur as England's legitimate king.

KING PHILIP: When I have said, make answer to us both.  
He takes Arthur by the hand.

#### **King Philip II to Citizens of Angiers**

Lo, in this right hand stands young Prince Arthur  
Plantagenet, the son to the elder  
Brother of this man and king o'er him. Be  
Pleased to pay that duty which you truly  
Owe to Arthur who owns it, and then we  
Will seal up our cannons, and you will see  
Us retreat with unhacked swords and helmets  
All unbruised, leaving you in peace. But let's  
Understand, if you foolishly pass this  
Offer, your rounded old-faced walls cannot  
Hide you from our malice, and you will miss  
Your wives and children. Shall you cast your lot  
With Arthur, or be as one who cowers  
As we stalk in blood to all that is ours?

CITIZEN: In brief, we are the King of England's subjects. For him, and in his right, we hold this town.

KING JOHN: Acknowledge then the king and let me in.

CITIZEN: That can we not. But he that proves the king. To him will we prove loyal. Till that time have we rammed up our gates against the world.