

# Proverbs in Medieval English Drama

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One of the major problems accompanying a study of proverbs is the fact that the term 'proverb' has not had a specific usage. The term is frequently confused or loosely associated with maxim, adage, or epigram, and often covers idiomatic phrases and similes.

The definition of *The Oxford English Dictionary* is more inclusive than any other dictionaries of proverbs. It defines a proverb as "a short pithy saying in common recognized use," and lumps together examples of all sorts of expressions. According to G. L. Apperson, the first editor of *English Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases : A Historical Dictionary* ( London, 1929 ), a proverb is a crystalized summary of popular wisdom or fancy. M. P. Tilley follows Apperson and has included proverbs, proverbial phrases and proverbial similes without discriminating them in his *A Dictionary of the Proverbs in England in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries* ( Ann Arbor, 1950 ), on the basis that he cannot find any agreement on what constitutes a proverb.

Joanna Wilson, in the Introduction of the third edition of *The Oxford Dictionary of English Proverbs* (1935; revised, London, 1970 ) declares that the task of the definition of proverbs is "hopeless." B. J. Whiting, in his *Proverbs, Sentences, and Proverbial Phrases: From English Writings Mainly Before 1500* (Cambridge, Mass. , 1968 ), warns of the danger of attempting to define proverbs.

“It might be better, indeed, to attempt no exact definition of proverbs but to rely rather on the common and received understanding of what is likely to be found in a book called a Dictionary of Proverbs or the like. As an old hand at collecting, quoting, paraphrasing, and attempting definitions of proverbs, I am inclined to feel that there is little gain in going over the old ground once more, especially since no simple definition, or even series of simple definitions is likely to fit everything found in a comprehensive collection.” (p. xi )

He further says, “We could indeed do worse than accept this definition to a point by agreeing that proverbs are ordered combination of words, or whatever origin or age, which survived for a time because of brevity and cleverness,” and has collected in his *Dictionary* not only true proverbs but all sorts of figurative expressions which resemble the simile, the metaphor, and the hyperbole.

Thus, in many cases, collectors of proverbs are not or could not be interested in discriminating between proverbs and other sayings. Accordingly, their dictionaries are very comprehensive. Proverbs, proverbial facts, sentences, maxims, observations of generations, warnings, admonitions, guides to conduct or accumulated wise sayings are all recorded.

Since all the proverb collectors, without exception, have not set up any clear definition of proverbs, it would be wise to rely on their understanding and acceptance and to accept what they have included in their collections.

However, through my investigation of proverbs in medieval English dramas, I have found a very clear, specific tendency which is seen throughout the so called the English Cycle Plays. From the four great Cycles, namely, the *Chester*, the *York*, the *Towneley* and the *Ludus Coventriae*, and the true *Coventry Plays*, we could collect a great deal of popular proverbs used in the periods when these plays were written and

performed. The dramatic characters who use these popular proverbs are, except for a few examples, always described as in a fallen state. Some of them are evil, some of them are foolish, though not evil. They also tend extensively to use idiomatic phrases. On the other hand, similes are used by both good, virtuous characters and bad characters.

For the present discussion, the Collections of proverbs, similes and idiomatic expressions from the *Towneley Cycle* and the *York Cycle*, which are particularly noted for their extensive use of proverbs, are presented at the end of the paper. The expressions from the *Towneley Cycle* are in Collection I and those from the *York Cycle* are in Collection II. The numbers of the expressions from these two Cycles are separately shown in Table I and Table II, together with the numbers of proverbs quoted by Whiting in his *Dictionary*. To simplify the discussion, I shall concentrate on the sayings, particularly on proverbs and similes from the *Towneley Cycle*.

The phrases and expressions are divided into three different categories. The proverbs and proverbial expressions are in one category. The similes and the idiomatic phrases are shown separately. They are marked with special signs, # and \*. In the proverbs and proverbial expressions, some idiomatic expressions or oaths are included. "Go to the devil of hell" ( D10 ), which is quoted as a proverb by Whiting, is an idiomatic swearing in our sense. Whereas, such sayings as "Amend while you can" ( A1 ) may be called sententious with a Biblical origin. Proverbs are usually figurative in concealing a hidden meaning, but this saying is direct in expression and unenigmatic in meaning. In some cases it is not always easy to differentiate between the proverbial and idiomatic phrases. The task of discriminating between these two expressions is rather difficult. We really do not know whether the contemporary people were bothered with the differences or the discrimination. Here we must be rather liberal in

our interpretation of these expressions. Indeed, a lot of mere idiomatic phrases are recorded by Whiting and Tilley, and in *The Oxford Dictionary of English Proverbs*. Therefore, when I say proverbs, I mean true proverbs, proverbial phrases, and other expressions which seem to be idiomatic, but are not so distinctive as a truly idiomatic phrase.

Whiting has collected roughly 146 proverbs, proverbial phrases and similes from the *Towneley Cycle*. Out of 146, 45 can surely be classified as similies. The rest could be either proverbs or proverbial or idiomatic phrases and oaths. As I have shown on Table I & II, I have collected 224 proverbs, in 155 items, and 63 similies in 46 items, 92 important idiomatic phrases, almost twice as many as Whiting has offered. The reason why Whiting has missed so many proverbs will give us an important clue how we should constitute our idea about proverbs in medieval dramas, as I shall discuss later.

As we see from Collection I & II, most of the proverbs and the proverbial expressions from the *Towneley* and *York Cycles* are concerned with popular wisdom and counsels which are expressed through homely and popular figures and in language similarly homely and popular. There are some expressions Latinate or Biblical in diction such as “To grieve may not amend” (G6), “Mourning may not amend” (M8), “Sorrow helps not” (S14a). They might be classified as sententious sayings. Such sayings as “Not to set a bean” (B2), “Not to set a fart” (F3), “Not to set a fly wing” (F9), “Not to set at a pin” (P6), “Not worth a groat” (G7), “Not worth a leek” (L5), “Not worth a needle” (N2a), sound to be idiomatic oaths expressed in homely, popular terms. While, “Nothing impossible for God’s will” (N6), “God turn all to good” (T13) might be rather called maxims. The meanings of these expressions are abstract and their counsels are obvious.

The most familiar proverbs in the *Towneley Cycle* are those having

visual denotation created out of the everyday lives of the ordinary people such as “It is a good jest to drink of a gourd” (B10), “To hop like cocks in a croft” (C5), “One is horned like a cow” (C10), “To have a crow to pull” (C12), “To drink as we brew” (D36), “It is to far to tell an egg to go” (E4), “To go with a riven hood” (H3), “To go with a broken shoes and torn hoses” (H6), “Mutton is a good meat for glutton” (M10), “To teach one a new play of Yule” (P8), “The pot goes so long to the water” (P11), “To have more tow on one’s rock” (R4), “To claw one’s toes” (T7) and so on.

The more familiar proverbs of this type are pithy sayings expressed in easily remembered forms involving some contrast with cause and effect such as “First creep then walk” (C11), “Fair and soft men go far” (F2), “Worse people worse laws” (L2), “Good mending short ending” (M4), “After play comes sorrows” (P7), “Sorrow at the parting if laughter at meeting” (S14b), “Ill spun weft comes out evil” (W5).

The dramatic characters who put these popular proverbs and proverbial expressions in their mouths are, Cain, Jack Garcio (Cain’s servant), Noah, Noah’s Wife, Pharaoh, Mak (Sheep stealer), Mak’s Wife, the Shepherds, Garcio (the servant of the Shepherds), Joseph (the husband of Mary), Herod the Great, Herod’s Nuncius, Herod’s Soldiers, High Priests Annas and Caiaphas, Pilate, Pilate’s Consultus, the Soldiers who torture and crucify Jesus, Froward (the servant of the Soldiers), Tutiuillus the Vice, Thomas, Paul, Peter and Lazarus.

Except in the case of Lazarus, who is portrayed as the prefigure of Christ, and warns the audience by saying, “Amend while you can,” no one is described as perfect or as free from sin. They are all in a fallen state. The three Shepherds in the *Adoration* have the blessing to be the first to meet the Child Jesus. But before meeting the Child Jesus, they are uncouth herdsmen, without any reason, sense, or good judgment. As for Noah’s

Wife, although not wicked, she is a paradigm of shrew. She refuses to obey her husband and puts the whole family in disorder. Noah is an honest man. He finds favour before God and is chosen for the New World. But even he is far from perfection. He is lacking in the authority as the head of his family and cannot control his wife.

Some characters in the Passion sequences, commit formidable sins. Judas betrays his Lord and sells the Lord to the Jews. Peter, another disciple of Jesus, denies his Lord three times when the Lord was arrested. Thomas does not believe the resurrection of the Lord until he is encouraged to put his finger into the wounds fresh with blood. These disciples not only are unfaithful but breach the goodness of faith. The soldiers who torture and crucify Jesus are not aware of what they are doing, but rather enjoy the task as if they were engaged in a play.

Joseph, the husband of Mary, is described as a “just man” in *Matthew* ( 1: 19 ). However, the Joseph in the *Towneley Cycle* as well as in the other Cycles, is nothing but a silly old fool. He is dubious of Mary’s chastity when she conceives, and abuses her for it. He is greatly troubled about her and decides to leave her.

Now let us examine the characters who use similes in the Towneley Cycle. As the sentences marked by the special sign \* ( asterisk ) indicate, similes are used by both the good people and the bad people to enliven their speeches. For instance, “As clear as crystal” ( C15 ) is used by both Mary and Joseph. Popular similes on steel, “As hard as any steel” ( S20 ), “As stable as any steel” ( S20a ), “As true as any steel” ( S20b ) are used by Thomas, Angel, Deus, Mak the Thief, the First Shepherd. Other popular similes concerning stone, “As stiff as any stone” ( S21 ), “As still as any stone” ( S21a ), “Stone-still” ( S21b ), “As true as any stone” ( S21c ), “To stand like a stone” ( S21d ) are used by Mary, Noah, the Third Son of Noah, the Emperor, the Third Shepherd, Mak, Pilate, Jesus and Luke.

“As bright as the sun” (S22 ) is used by Lucifer, Mary and Jesus. “As sharp as a thorn” (T6 ) is used by the Second Shepherd and Mary.

The proverbs and the proverbial comparisons tell us about the everyday lives of the contemporary people; selling and buying (B1, P9, P15); debts ( D31); food ( B2, B11, B11a, D36, D37, D37b, E3, L5, M2, M6, P14, W10 ); body (B3, B12, D5, E2, F1, F6, G1, G1a, G8, N1, S9, T7, T8 ); Christmas game (C7, P8 ); games( B10, D1 ); poultry keeping ( C3,C5,C6, E4 ); excrement ( A2, D14,D35,F3,M5, M9,T12 ); cattling and livestock ( C10, L1, M10, S15); weaving and sowing (N2, N2a, R1, R4, T9, W5, Y1 ); childraising ( C11 ); farming ( F7 ); clothing ( C8, H3, H6, H7, H8, S5, S11, T1); sailing (M1, S1, W12 ); fishing ( N3 ); money ( F4, G7, P4, P5, P16 ); awareness of the transitory world ( F12, N5, P7, R3); allusion to the Hue-and-cry (C14, W15); nature (C2, D32, M7, M7a ,N4, S22, S22a, W2, W15); flowers and trees (B7, B8, L4, L4a, L8, T4, T6); animals, birds and insects ( B9, C12, D34, F9, F13, P2, W7 ). “Stafford blue” (S17 ) recalls a famous place. There are a lot of sayings on women, mostly abusive. Several sayings such as “One’s horn is blown” (H4 ), “Horn of cuckoldry” (H5 ), “It is hard to wive and thrive” (T5c ), or “Chastise wife’s tongue” (W11 ) imply unhappy relations between husband and wife.

These expressions are ususally used by villains and witless characters. Villainous types familiar to the English stage such as Cain, Herod, Annas, Caiaphas, Pilate, Judas, Mak the Thief tend often to use this type of expressions. Their speeches are also adorned with idiomatic phrases and oaths. Such comic characters as Noah’s Wife, the Shepherds, Joseph, who are not evil but are fallen, are also proverb mongers.

Thus, the popular proverbs are employed to characterize the people in the play, and the similes are brought in to enliven and to adorn the speeches of both the bad characters and the good characters. The dramatist might have understood the difference between the proverbs and the

similes, that is proverbial comparisons. If it is so, the proverbs must be distinguished from the mere proverbial comparisons.

In their meanings and styles proverbs are essentially different from similes. They are usually figurative in concealing a hidden meaning and are concerned with wisdom and counsel, however short and pithy they may be. They share with other species of aphoristic expressions. On the other hand, a proverbial comparison, like “As black as coal, ” or “As clear as crystal,” is just descriptive. It does not deliver any wisdom or counsel.

The next problem is that if the dramatists were aware of the difference between proverbs and similes, then why did they put proverbs on the tongues of only the wicked or foolish characters. For since the time of Solomon, both in everyday life and in literature, it is always the wise men or the respectable, elderly person who teach the young through proverbs. A child in the late Middle Ages as well, was taught how to fear God, how to respect his parents and teacher, how to eschew vice, how to spend money wisely, how to deal with friends and even how to choose a wife.

In England extreme zeal for proverbs was seen in the fifteenth and the sixteenth centuries when many collections and treatises of common English proverbs appeared. It was a time when the English Cycle Plays were having their heyday. And the interest in proverbs was immensely stimulated by the appearance of John Heywood’s *A Dialogue conteining the number in effect of all the proverbs in the Englishe tongue* ( 1546 ), *A hundred Epigrammes* ( 1550 ), *Two Hundred Epigrammes* (1555 ) and *A fourth hundred Epigrams* ( 1562 ).

Heywood’s *Dialogue* is of particular interest, since it is not a mere collection of proverbs but has a highly organized narrative structure dealing with two manners of marriage. In this narrative, an old man gives



a young man a counsel about marriage. The counsel is transmitted through proverbs. The most familiar expressions which are extensively used are popular, common proverbs which have not Latinate or Biblical origins. These proverbs not only further the narrative structure, but are used as the chief vehicle of the rich sarcasm, irony and wordplay.

As I have already stated, in the *Towneley Cycle* as well as in the other Cycles, those who are in the habit of using popular proverbs pretend to be wise and full of wisdom and counsel, but they do a foolish thing in transmitting a truth through proverbs. Contrary to their intention their proverbs reveal their damned, fallen nature. Their use of proverbs ironically disclose what they are. For instance, in *The First Shepherds' Play* of the *Towneley Cycle*, the Third Shepherd teaches the other two how to use their wits through proverbs, but he himself turns out to be the greatest fool of the three.

Mak the Thief in *The Second Shepherds' Play* disguises his reality by grandiloquently boasting that he is a yoeman of the king and adorns his speeches with proverbs and proverbial sayings. But no one believes his words. In due course he steals a sheep from the Shepherds and is in great danger of losing his life. The Shepherds are also engaged in the wordplay of proverbs and attempting to display wisdom, but they are actually not wise enough even to see through the trick of Mak.

The evil characters in the Passion sequences are frequent users of proverbs. They justify their cruel, unreasonable deeds with proverbs and wise sayings. However, the more they use the proverbs, the more clearly their wicked, evil nature are emphasized. Their verbosity itself reveals their diabolical nature.

Thus, in the Cycle Plays popular proverbs are used to show the damned and fallen quality of the bad characters. The use of proverbs is one of the important attributes of these people. In this respect, they are

pointedly contrasted with the good people who seldom utter a popular proverb. When the dramatic characters use popular proverbs, the contemporary audience might have easily associated them with diabolical powers, or understood their fallen quality.

Joanna Wilson, in the Introduction of *The Oxford Dictionary of English Proverbs*, remarks : “In medieval times and later they ( proverbs) were constantly on men’s lips as accepted wisdom, in the sixteenth and much of the seventeenth century they were an essential ornament in a fashionable writer or talker’s equipment, until from the end of the seventeenth century onwards they deteriorated into ‘vulgar sayings,’ only fit for ignorant men.” In view of the fact that in the fifteenth century the extent Cycle Plays had already been performed, it is likely that the time when proverbs began to deteriorate and were most commonly uttered by “ignorant men” was much earlier than she assumed.

The medieval dramatists of religious plays were rarely invited to invent original dramatic action. They usually worked with a well known story, and their business was to invent dialogues and to shape the story in the style of drama. In addition, the dramatists of the the Cycle Plays were requested to turn the Biblical stories into the form of play and game as V. A. Kolve remarks in *The Play Called Corpus Christi* ( Stanford, 1966 ), since these Plays were usually performed at a festive season called Corpus Christi Feast. Popular proverbs were a very useful device for heightening the festive spirit; all the proverb mongers in the Cycle Plays lend themselves to be the objects of derision and laughter of the audience, and succeed in presenting the Biblical world in play and game.

In Table III and Table IV, the numbers of proverbs and similes used in each pageant in the *Towneley Cycle* and the *York Cycle* is shown. As it is clear from the tables, in the *Towneley Cycle*, play II ( *The Killing of Abel* ), play III ( *Noah and the Ark* ), play XII ( *The First Shepherds’ Play*

), play XIII ( *The Second Shepherds' Play* ), play XVI ( *Herod the Great* ), play XXI ( *The Buffeting* ), play XXX ( *The Judgment* ) are most distinctive in the density of proverbs. Play XXIII ( *The Crucifixion* ), play XXIV ( *The Talents* ) and play XXVIII ( *Thomas of India* ) come next. The first six pageants are attributed to the "Wakefield Master," who lived in and near Wakefield, where the *Towneley Cycle* might have been written and performed. The other four pageants, particularly, the parts composed in a nine-line stanza, are extensively associated with the same dramatist. He favoured the nine-line stanza to which no exact parallel has been found outside the *Towneley Cycle*. The parts distinguished by him are the highly colloquial idiom and outspoken criticism of contemporary topics, a bold handling of secular material for comic purposes, and extraordinary skill of the characterization, to which the proverbs are a major contribution.

From Table IV, it is clear that play XIII ( *Joseph's Trouble about Mary* ), play XXVI ( *The Conspiracy* ), play XXIX ( *Christ before Annas and Caiaphas* ), play XXX ( *Christ before Pilate: the Dream of Pilate's Wife* ), play XXXI ( *Christ before Herod* ), play XXXIII ( *Christ before Pilate: Judgment* ), play XXXV ( *Crucifixion* ), play XXXVI ( *The Death of Christ* ) are most prominent in the frequency of proverbs. Except for *Joseph's Trouble about Mary*, all the pageants are attributed to one dramatist called "York Realist." For the creation of a powerful sense of atmosphere, and for the achievement of great emotional intensity in dialogue, character and action, the proverbs are effectively used.

Now let us think why Whiting in his *Dictionary* has missed so many proverbs. A proverbial saying from the *Towneley Cycle*, "Not to eat any more bread" ( B11a ) is based on the *Acts of the Apostles* ( 23:14 ), and it is quoted by Whiting. Similar expressions are found in the same Cycle; "Not drink any more" ( D37 ), "Not to have a rest any more" ( R2 ), "Not

to sleep any more" (S10 ), all of which are not recorded by Whiting. If "Not to eat any more bread" is regarded as a proverb, the other four expressions should also be recognized as proverbs, since they are nothing but the versions of the first saying uttered in exactly the same style and delivering the same meaning. This sort of expression is considerably missed by Whiting.

One of the Shepherds of *The First Shepherds' Play* expresses his sorrow for the transitory world, and he says, "When ryches is he /Then comys pouerte, hors-man lak cope /Walkys then" ( J1, Collection I ). It is not recorded in Whiting's *Dictionary*, but a similar expression is in the *Dialogue* by Heywood "lak out of office she maie byd me walke" ( l. 1525 ). The saying of the Shepherd seems to be a variation of the proverb recorded by Heywood.

The Second Shepherd of *The Second Shepherds' Play* is noted for his complaints against his shrewish wife. One of his complaints is "Had She oones Wett Hyr Whystyll/ She couth Syng clere /Hyr pater noster" (P1 ). This complaint seems to have something to do with a saying of the young man in the *Dialogue*. He is stricken in poverty. He goes to see his uncle and aunt to ask for their help but is refused. Then behind her back, he speaks ill of the aunt and says, "Pattryng the diuels pater noster to herself" ( l. 999 ). This was a popular proverb. There was another proverbial saying concerning paternoster. It is "To say pater noster," which is recorded in *The Oxford English Proverbs*. The Second Shepherd's saying on paternoster could be a version of either the proverb recorded by Heywood or the proverb recorded by *The Oxford English Proverbs*.

Lastly, I take up another example of a saying by the same Shepherd. He is poor but has many children; his wife conceives almost every year. He laments the marital state, saying, "Sely capyle, oure hen /both to and fro/She kakylys; Bot begyn she to crok, To groyne or to klok, Wo is hym

of oure cok; ffor he is in the shekyls" (C3 ). Contrary to his lamentation, when a hen lays an egg, there is no one who is not pleased with it. This is a widely recognized truth. And there was a popular proverb on it. "Hen is dear when she lays, loath when she says < cluck > ." But our Shepherd opposes this idea; he is not happy when his hen lays an egg, for it means that he has to bear a heavier burden, namely a larger family. Under this circumstance, it is likely that his saying is a parody of the popular saying on a hen. He uses the same terminology as that of the popular saying on a hen, but twists its meaning.

The most difficult task accompanying the proverb hunting is to discover the proverbs which might have been a version or a parody of a true proverb. Even if similar parallels are found, there is no means to judge whether they are closely related or not. All that could be said is that when sayings were incorporated in literary or dramatic works, the authors did not hesitate to make changes suggested by context, application, rhyme, or meter. They went further to twist the meanings of the original expressions to make their language lively. What are in their works might not be in the form which the author inherited, but in the form which he has changed for his convenience.

The editions used for the present paper are *The Towneley Plays*, ed. George England and Alfred W. Pollard. EETS, ES71. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1897; rpt. 1963; *The York Plays*, ed. Richard Beadle. London: Edward Arnold, 1982.

Collection I

Proverbs, proverbial expressions,  
similes and idiomatic phrases  
in the Towneley Cycle

TP= The Towneley Plays, ed. George England ( London, EETS, 1897 )

YP= The York Plays, ed. Richard Beadle ( London, 1982 )

Heywood= A Dialogue of Proverbs, ed. R. E. Habenicht ( Los Angeles, 1963 )

q. Whiting= quoted in Whiting

\*= simils

#= idiomatic expressios

#### A1 Amend while you can

Lazarus; Amende the, man, Whils thou may ( TP XXXI, 174,181,182,189,197 )

#### A2 As a man wipes his Arse

\* Cain; Not as mekill, grete ne small, as he myght wipe his ars with all ( TP 11, 237-8; cf. As a man wpyyth his ars he doth nothing ellys, Whiting A194 )

#### B1 To Buy a Bargain

Mak; Ffor he might aby the bargan if it were told At the endyng ( TP XIII , 272-3; cf. Whiting B42. a1352 )

Nuncius; Be he neuer so bold byes he that bargan, Twelf thowsand fold ( TP XVI. 21-2; Some bargains dere bought, good chepe wold be sold, Heywood. 439 ) .

3 Pastor; Light chepe Ietherly for-yeldys ( TP XIII, 170-1; q. Whiting C166. c1250; Heywood 439 )

2 Tortor; Lett all this bargan be syn all oure toyles ar before ( TP XXII, 356 )

( YP B1 )

#### B2 Not worth a Bean

1 Tortor; All is not worth a beyn ( TP XXIII, 527; q. Whiting B92. c1300; Heywood 735 )

( YP B3 )

#### B3 To make one's Beard

3 Miles; I had made thaym a berd ( TP XVI, 189; q. Whiting B116. c1380 )

#### B4 Bear the Bell

Garcio; Ye thre bere the bell( TP XII, 186; q. Whiting B230. c1303; Heywood 676; York XXVI, 195 )

Herod; Ye bere the bel ( TP XVI, 197; q. Whiting B230 )

( YP B4 )

#### B5 Bite and whine

Noah; Thou can both byte and whyne, with a rerd ( TP III, 229-30; Tilley B427; Heywood 2032 )

#### B6 Te beat Black and Blue

Noah's Wife; And I am bet so blo That I may not thryfe ( TP III, 413-4 )

Pilate; Beat hym blak and bloo ( TP XXII, 126; q. Whiting B329, only this example )

cf. Johannes; That high on the tre thus hyngys alone with body blak blo ( TP XXIII, 345-6 )

Cleopa; Bio thou bett hym bare his brest thou maide all blak ( TP XXVII, 15 ), Bete his body blo ( TP XXVII, 30 )

( c f. YP B6 )

- B7 To blow a cold Blast  
 Mak; Bot I com or thay ryse els bliwes a cold blast ( TP XIII, 344; q. Whiting B 341, only this example )
- B8 As bright as a Blossom on brier  
 \* Joseph; As blossom bright on bogh ( TP XV, 71; q. Whiting B376. c1350 )
- B9 To whet like a Boar  
 \* 3 Miles; I mon whett lyke a bore ( TP XVI, 318; q. Whiting B 407. 1420 )
- B10 It is a good Bourd (jest) to drink of  
 a gourd  
 Joseph; It is an old by-worde, It is good bowrde, for to drynk of a gowrde  
 ( TP XII, 481-3; q. Whiting B475, only this example )
- B11 As ever one eats Bread  
 # Noah's Wife; As euer ete I brede ( TP III, 395; see B 11a )  
 # Syrinus; As ete I brede ( TP IX, 182 )  
 # 2 Miles; As euer ete I breed ( TP XX, 622 )
- B11a Not To eat any more Bread  
 3 Pastor; Shall I neuer ete bred the sothe to I wytt ( TP XIII, 468; q. Whiting B520. c1400; Acts 23:14;  
 Pilate; Shall he aby with bytter baylls or lett bred ( TP XX, 124-5 )  
 Caiaphas; Shall I neuer ete bred to that he be stald In the stokys ( TP XXI, 203; see D 37, R 1 & S 11 )  
 ( YP B 14 )
- B12 To have brows like Bristles  
 \* 2 Pastor; She is browyd lyke a brystyll ( TP XIII, 102; q. Whiting B553 c1375 )
- C1 One's own Chorister  
 1 Demon; Thou art myn awne queresur= i.e., I recognize you as one of my follower ( TP XXX, 209 )
- C2 Cloud & proud  
 1 Pastor; He will make it as prowde a lord as he were, With a hede lyke a clowde ffelterd his here ( TP XII, 64-5 )  
 Tutiullus; She can make it full prowde with japes and with gynnes, hir hede as hy as a clowde bot no shame of hir synnes Thai fele ( TP XXX, 262-4; cf. As high as a cloud, Whiting C317; He that is proud is often shamed, Whiting P426. c1340 )
- C3 Cluck & hen  
 2 Pastor; Sely capyle, oure hen both to and fro She kakyls; Bot begyn she to crok, To groyne or to klok, Wo is hym is of oure cok, ffor he is in the shekyls ( TP XIII, 67-72; cf. The hen is dear when she lays, loath when she says "cluck." Whiting H342. 1450 )
- C4 As black as Coal  
 \* 1 Demon; Now ar we waxen blak as any coyll ( TP I, 136; q. Whiting C324. c1225 )
- C5 To hop like Cocks in a croft  
 Froward; We must hop and dawnse As cokys in a croft ( TP XXI, 354-5; q. Whiting C355, only this example )

- C6 First Cock of a young lad  
Mak; Welner at the fyrst cok of a yong lad, ffor to mend oure flock ( TP XIII, 387-8; cf. Many an old cock maintains his flock but all oure eggs come from the young cock, Whiting C352. c1475; The yong cocke croweth, as he thet olde hereth, Heywood 556 )
- C7 Cock' s-comb  
Caiaphas; Kyng copyn in oure game thus shall I indew the, ffor a fatur ( TP XXI, 166-7; cf. To wear a cock's-comb, Whiting C357; Heywood 1764 )
- C8 To pay one on the Cote  
3 Miles; I shall pay thaim on the cote ( TP XVI, 326; q. Whiting C343, only this example; see T1 )  
2 Miles; I payd them on the cote ( TP XVI, 421 )
- C9 Counsel  
Mak; Bot he nedys good counsell That fayn wold fare weyll, And has bot lytyll spendyng ( TP XIII, 275-7 )
- C10 One is horned like a Cow  
Tutiullus; She is hornyd like a kow ( TP XXX, 269; How be it lo god sendth the shrewd cow short hornes, Heywood 671 )
- C11 First Creep and then walk  
2 Pastor; Ffyrst must vs crepe and sythen go ( TP XII, 100; q. Whiting C202. c1443; Heywood 834 & 941 )  
1 Pastor; kynde will crepe where it may not go ( TP XIII, 591-2 )
- C12 To have a Crow to pull  
Cain; We haue a crow to pull ( TP II, 311; q. Whiting C572, first entry; Heywood 1846 )
- C13 To bear a Crown  
Herod; If I bere this crowne ( TP XVI, 431; q. Whiting C576. c1475 ), I may do what I shall. And bere vp my crown ( TP XVI, 476-7 )
- C14 Cry ( allusion to hue-and-cry )  
Mak; And make a fowll noyse. And cry out apon me ( TP XIII, 429-30; see W14 )
- C15 As clear as Crystal  
\* Joseph; She is as clene as cristall clyfe ( TP X, 308; q. Whiting C588. a1100 )  
\* Mary; Thyn een as cristall clere ( TP XXIII, 361 )  
( YP C2 )
- D1 That Dance is done  
Pharaoh; Ffy on hym! nay, nay, that dawnce is done ( TP VIII, 238; q. Whiting D9; YP XI, 225, first entry )  
( YP D1 )
- D2 Devil in a band  
Noah's Wife; Then may we be here the dewill in a bande ( TP XIII, 407 ; q. Whiting D185, only this example )  
1 Miles; Siche thre knyghtys had lytyll drede To bynde the dwill that we on call. In need ( TP XX, 632-4 )
- D3 Devil in one's brains  
\* Herod; What the dewyll is in thare harnes? ( TP XIV, 301; see D24 )  
( cf. YP D11 )



- D4 Devil dead by the gate  
 # Pastor; Seldom lyses the dewyll dede by the gate (TP XIII, 229; q. Whiting D202, first entry; cf. The deuill is deade, Heywood 2433 )
- D5 Devil's dirt in ones' s beard  
 Caiaphas; The dwillys durt in thi berd ( TP XXI, 170; cf Whiting D201. 1402; cf. Therby the fat cleane flyt fro my berde, Heywood 154 )
- D6 Devil draw you to hell  
 # Pilate; To hell the dwill shall draw you, Body, bak and bone ( TP XXIII, 20), The deuill to hell harry hys goost ( TP XXVI, 35 ), The deuill the all to-draw ( TP XXVI, 506 )  
 ( YP D5 )
- D7 Devil drown you  
 # Pharaoh; The deuill the drowne ( TP VIII, 253 )  
 ( YP D6 )
- D8 Devil in the eye  
 # 2 Pastor; Mak, the dewill in your ee ( TP XIII, 217 )
- D9 Devil give you ....  
 # Caiaphas; Speke on in a torde the dwill gif the shame ( TP XXI, 148 ), The dwill gif the shame ( TP XXI, 163 ), The dwill gyf hym care ( TP XXI, 308 )
- D10 To Go to the devil ( of hell )  
 Cain; Go to the dwill, and say I bad ( TP II, 94; q. Whiting D197, only this example )  
 Pharaoh; Weynd the to the deuill of hell ( TP VIII, 223 )  
 ( YP D7 )
- D11 The devil have his bones  
 # Caiaphas; The dwill haue his bonys ( TP XXI, 441; cf. The diuell hath caste a bone to set strife, Heywood 1494 )
- D12 Devil hang him up to dry  
 # Garcio; The dwill hang hym vp to dry ( TP II, 13 )  
 # 3 Pastor; The dewyll myght hym hang ( TP XIII, 210 )  
 # Herod; The dewill the hang ( TP XIV, 265 ), The dwill hang you high to dry ( TP XIV, 455), The dewill me hang and draw ( TP XVI, 132 )  
 # Pilate; The dwill, he hang you high to dry ( TP XX, 162 )  
 ( YP D8 )
- D13 To have one in the Devil's hand  
 # Pilate; Where in the dwill hand had we the? ( TP XX, 181; see D28 )
- D14 To Kiss the Devil's arse  
 # Cain; Kys the dwillis toute ( TP II, 63 ), Com kys the dwill right in the ars ( TP II, 287 )
- D15 Devil knock out the brains  
 # Mak; The dewill knok outt thare harnes ( TP XIII, 392 )
- D16 Devil in the maw (=belly)  
 # 2 Pastor; Yee, the dewill in thi maw so tariand ( TP XIII, 110 )
- D17 In the Devil's name  
 # Cain; In the dwills nayme Before ( TP II, 147 ), Now bren, In the dwillys name ( TP II, 278 )  
 # Pharaoh; Pestilence in the dwilys name ( TP VIII, 358 )

- # Caiaphas; Speke on oone word right in the dwylls name ( TP XXI, 145 )  
( YP D9 )
- D18 Raged Devil  
# Pharaoh; What, ragyd the dwyll of hell, alys you so to cry? (TP VIII, 304 ),  
The ragyd! the dwyll! ( TP VIII, 337 ), The raggyd dwyll, we drowne! (TP  
VIII, 414 )
- D19 Devil's pain  
# Pilate; This is the dwylls payn ( TP XX, 140 )
- D20 Devil's service  
Consultus; He lygys here in the dewyll seruyce ( TP XXIV, 178 )
- D21 Devil speed you  
# Garcio; The dwyll you spede ( TP II, 4 )  
# Cain; The dwyll me spde if I haue hast ( TP II, 135 ), The dwyll hym spede  
that me taght ( TP II, 151 ), The dwyll me spede ( TP II, 234 )  
# Herod; The dewyll the spede and me ( TP XVI, 226 )  
# Pilate; The dwyll you spede ( TP XX, 736 ), Peasse in the dwylls name ( TP  
XXIII, 9 ), The dewyll the spede ( TP XXIV, 223 )  
( YP D10 )
- D22 Devil skald you  
# Pilate; The dwyll skald you ( TP XX, 4 )
- D23 Stinks like the Devil  
# Cain; It stank like the dwyll in hell ( TP II, 283; q. Whiting D206. c1375 )
- D24 Devil of the war (=bad time )  
# Mak; Then myght I by, for all the pak, The dewyll of the war ( TP XIII,  
330-1; Ludus 291.28 )
- D25 In the (twenty) Devil's way  
Cain; Sit downe in the dewyll way ( TP II, 88; q. Whiting D218. c1200), Come  
downe in twenty dwyll way ( TP II, 439; q. Whiting D219. c1330 )  
Herod; In twenty dewyll way (TP XIV, 465; q. Whiting D219 )  
Pilate; Go hens in twenty dwyll way ( T P XX, 200; q. Whiting D219 )  
( YP D12 )
- D26 If the Devil swore  
# Imperator; In certain, had the dwyll hit sworne, that gadlyng shuld agane  
( TP IX, 83-4 )  
# Herod; If the dwyll of hell had sworne, he shall agane ( TP XIV, 317-8 )  
( YP D14 )
- D27 If he were the Devil  
# Imperatoar; He shall neuer dystroy my lawes, were he the dwyll of hell ( TP  
IX, 95-6 )
- D28 What (who, where) the Devil (varied)  
# Cain; What dwyll of hell is it? ( TP II, 279 )  
# 3 pastor; What the dewyll is this? ( TP XIII, 585 )  
# 1 Pastor; What dewyll shall he hatt? ( TP XIII, 604 )  
# Herod; What the dewyll is in thare harnes? ( TP XIV, 301 ), What the dewyll  
( TP XIV, 307 ), Who the dewyll made hym knyght? ( TP XIV, 312 )  
# Pilate; What dewyll will he be there? ( TP XX, 118 ), Where in the dwyll  
hand had we the? ( TP XX, 181 )

- D29 Devil ails one  
 # Tortor; What dwill so euer he ayll? ( TP XXIII, 299 )  
 # Herod; I wote not what dewill me alys ( TP XVI, 114 )  
 ( YP D16 )
- D30 Devil (varied)  
 # Imperator; Downe fell? dwyll! ( TP IX, 73 ). A, fy, and dewyls!( TP IX, 76 )  
 # Herod; The dewill! ( TP XIV, 283 ), Dewyls on thame all thre! ( TP XIV, 290)  
 Fy on dewyls! ( TP XIV, 308 ), What dewill! ( TP XVI, 118 ), Ffy on the  
 dewill ( TP XVI, 150 ), Ffy! dewill! ( TP XVI, 174 ), Bot adew! to the  
 deuyll! ( TP XVI, 512 )  
 # 1 miles; The deuyll haue my saull bot I be fyrst sene ( TP XVI, 407 )  
 # Pilate; Yei, dewill! ( TP XX, 106 ), The dwill! ( TP XX, 156 )  
 # 2 Tortor; Ffy, fy, on thise dyse the dewill I theym take! ( TP XXIV, 377 )  
 ( YP D17 )
- D31 Not to Die in one's Debt  
 Pilate; I shall not dy in youre dett ( TP XXIV, 195; q. Whiting D114. a1450)
- D32 As one feels the Dew  
 # Froward; As fell I the dew ( TP XXI, 358 )
- D33 In the Dike  
 3 Pastor; Poore men ar in the dyke and ofe tyme mars ( TP XII, 93; q.  
 Whiting D247, first entry; My beautiful marriage is in the dyke, Heywood  
 131 & Snowe is white And lieth in the dike , Heywood 1624-5 )
- D34 As a Dog in the dike  
 # Lazarus; Stynke as dog in dyke ( TP XXXI, 146; see D23 )
- D35 From Door to midden  
 Noah's Wife; I will not, for thi bydyng, go from doore to mydyng ( TP III,  
 375-6; q Whiting D351, only this example )
- D36 Drink as we brew  
 Mak; We must drynk as we brew, And that is bot reson ( TP XIII, 501-2; q.  
 Whiting B529. 1264; Heywood 430 )  
 cf.2 Pastor; He has done vs greuance therfor shall he drynk ( TP XXI, 39;  
 see D33b )
- D37 Not to Drink any more  
 3 Pastor; Nor drynk in my heede with hym tyll I mete ( TP XIII, 469; cf.  
 B11a; R2 & S10 )
- D37a What is Drink without meat  
 3 Pastor; What is drynk without mete (TP XII, 194; q. Whiting D398, only this  
 example
- D37b To Drink woe  
 2 Tortor; He has done vs greuance therfor shall he drynk ( TP XXI, 39; cf.  
 Whiting D 397. 1300 & D405 )
- E1 Both on Earnest and on derision  
 # 2 Tortor; Both on earnest and on hethyng This cote I wold I had ( TP XXIV,  
 139-40; To broyd hym with it in earnest or scof, Heywood 1810 & 2320 )
- E2 To be worth one's Ears  
 Herod; Had ye bene woth youre eres ( TP XVI, 165; q. Whiting E11. a1376 )

- E3 As fresh as an Eel  
\* 1 Pastor; As fresh as an eyll ( TP XIII, 356 )
- E4 It is to far to tell an Egg to go  
3 Pastor; It is to far to byd hyte To an eg or it go ( TP XII, 150-1; q. Whiting E51, only this example )
- F1 Double Face  
1 Demon; Bot before hym he prase hym, behynde he mys-sase hym, Thus dowbill he mase hym, thus do thai today ( TP XXX, 157-60; cf. Whiting F5, F6, F8, F12 )  
cf. None better to beare two faces in a hood, Heywood 560 )
- F2 Fair and soft men go far  
Cain; I haue gone ofte on softer wise ( TP II, 162 )  
Anna; All soft may men go far ( TP XXI, 211; q. Whiting F17. c1385 )  
Pilate; Ffar and softely ( TP XXIV, 209; q. Whiting F17 )  
( YP F2 )
- F3 Not to set a fart  
Cain; Bi all men set I not a fart ( TP II, 369; q. Whiting F61, first entry; Heywood Epigram 138.86.6; see P6 & F9 )
- F4 Not worth a Farthing  
2 Pastor; I trow not oone farthyng ( TP XIII, 572; see Whiting F65; Heywood 637 )
- F5 As bright as Fire  
\* Nuncius; By a starne as bright as fyre This kyng thay knew ( TP XIV, 287-8; q. Whiting F162. a1425 )
- F5a To behave like Fire  
\* Herod; With-in I fare as fyre ( TP XVI, 101 )
- F6 Flesh with flesh  
Daniel; Fflesh with fleshe will be boght. That he lose not that he has wroght wyth hys awne hend ( TP VII, 229-231; Eye for an eye. Exodus 21:24)
- F6a As small as Flesh to the pot  
\* Herod; If ye do. I clefe you small as flesh to pott ( TP XVI, 98-9; q. Whiting F270. c1400 )
- F7 As fallow as the Floor  
\* 1 Pastor; The tylthe of oure landy lyys falow as floore ( TP XIII, 13; q. Whiting F296, only this example )
- F8 As fair as the Flower  
\* Mary; Thi face with blode is red. Was fare as floure in féylde ( TP XXIII, 323-4; q. Whiting F304. c1300 )
- F9 Not to set a Fly wing  
2 Tortor; He settys not a fle wyng ( TP XXI, 94; q. Whiting F356, only this example; see F2 )
- F10 As ugly as a Fool  
\* 1 Demo; Vgly, tatyrd as a foyll ( TP I, 137; q. Whiting F358. c1375 )
- F11 Fools of Gotham  
Garcio; Sagh I neuer none se fare bot the foles of gotham ( TP XII, 180; q. Whiting G406, only this example )

F 12 Fortune's wheel

2 Tortor; As fortune assyse men wyll she make; hir maners ar nyse she can  
downe and vptake; And ryche She turnes vp-so-downe, And vnder abone, Most  
cheffe of renoune She castys in the dyche ( TP XXIV, 379-85; q. Whiting  
F523. a1338; the world ronthe on wheles, Heywood 2057 )

F 13 Let the geese beware, when the Fox  
preeches

Cain; Let furth youre geyse, the fox will preche ( TP II, 84; q. Whiting  
F605. a1450; Heywood 2180 )

G 1 To have one's Gall burst

Herod; Bot I kyll hym and his I wote I brast my gall ( TP XVI, 301; q.  
Whiting G13. a1450 ), So light is my saull, that all of Sugar is my gall  
( TP XVI, 474-5; cf. Whiting G12. c1390 ),  
3 Tortor; That he shall soyn yelde the gast, ffor brestyn is his gall ( TP  
XXIII, 588-9; q. Whiting G13 )

G 1a To have a galon of Gall

2 Pastor; She has a galon of gall ( TP XIII, 106 )

G 2 Gift mars many men

Caiaphas; Bot gyfts marres many man ( TP XXI, 439; q. Whiting G 69, only this  
example; cf. Riches bryngth ofte harme, Heywood 1212 )

G 3 As brittle as the Glass

\* 3 Pastor; And brekyll as glas ( TP XIII, 121; q. Whiting G109. a1200 )

G 4 To shine like any Glass

\* 1 Tortor; It shoyn as any glas ( TP XXIV, 83; q. Whiting G 124. a1300 )

G 5 God's forbot

\* Garcio; Godis forbot ( TP II, 38 )  
\* Cain; Godis forbot ( TP II, 184 )  
\* 1 Pastor; Godys forbot ( TP XII, 271 )  
\* 1 Tortor; Godys forbot ( TP XXI, 409 )

G 6 To greeve may not amend

Joseph; It is no boytt to grete, truly withoutten trayn; Oure bayll it may  
not boytt bot well more make oure payn ( TP XV, 92-5; cf. Whiting D337.  
c1420, G455. c1300, M729. c1425; see M8 & S 14a )

G 7 Not worth a Groat

1 Miles; I hold here a grote she lykys me not weyll Be we parte ( TP XVI,  
328-9; cf. Whiting G474. 1469; Heywood 965 & 1784; see F 3 )

G 8 To drive out one's Guts

\* Herod; My guttys with outt thryng Bot I this lad hynge ( TP XVI, 240-1 ),  
cf. Bot I kyll hym and his I wote I brast my gall ( TP XVI, 301 )

H 1 Even a good wife strokes the Hay

Cain; Euen the good wife strokid the hay ( TP II, 88; cf. Wisp of hay. TP II,  
438; "wisp of hair," "stroke with the hair," "stroke against the hair"  
were common usages. So "hay" of Cayn's speech refers seemingly to privy  
parts of women )

H 2 Hurlled like a Hog

\* Tutiullus; His hede is like a stowke hurlyd as hoggys ( TP XXX, 315; cf.  
Whiting H404. a1300; cf. A sleepe by routyng like a hog, Heywood 739 )

- H3 To Go with a riven Hood  
Cain; Then myght I go with a ryffen hood, And it is better hold that I  
haue then go from doore to doore & craue ( TP II, 141-3; q. Whiting.  
H453. c1450 )
- H4 One's Horn is blown  
Tutiullus; My horne is blawen ( TP XXX, 250; q. Whiting H485. c1386 )
- H5 Horn of cuckoldry  
3 Pastor; Sagh I neuer in credyll A hornyd lad or now ( TP XIII, 600; q.  
Whiting H483. a1400 )  
Tutiullus; She is hornyd like a kowe . . . for syn ( TP XXX, 269 )
- H6 To go with broken shoes and torn  
Hoses  
Cain; What nede had I my trauell to lose, to were my shoyn & ryfe my hose?  
( TP II, 152-3; She gothe with broken shone and torne hoses, Heywood 1010)
- H7 To wear a Hose  
Noah's Wife; Take the ther a langett To tye vp thi hose (TP III, 224-5; "to  
wear hoses=breeches" was proverbial to assume the authority of the husbnd;  
Shall the maister weare a breeche, Heywood 1516 )
- H8 One's heart is in the Hose  
2 Pastor; Thy hart is in thy hose ( TP XII, 424; q. Whiting H295, first  
entry; Heywood 928 )
- I1 I l l a h a i l  
Pharaoh; Wyth ylahayill ( TP VIII, 258; cf. Whiting S350 )  
Caiaphas; I l l a - h a y i l l thou borne ( TP XXI, 136 )  
Froward; I may syng y l l a - h a y i l l ( TP XXI, 375; q. Whiting S350, only this  
example )  
2 Tortor; Now y l l a h a l e was he borne ( TP XXIII, 563 )  
( YP I 1 )
- J1 Horse-man Jack out of office  
1 Pastor; When ryches is he Then comys pouerte, hors-man lak cope Walkys  
then, I weyn ( TP XII, 15-8; lak out of office she maie byd me walke,  
Heywood 1525 )
- J2 Jack and Gill  
Noah's Wife; For lak nor for gill will I turne my face ( TP III, 336; q.  
Whiting .12. first entry; Heywood 1514 )
- K1 To knit a Knot  
David; Loke ye do it well in wrytt, And theron a knot knytt, ffor it is  
prophecy ( TP VII, 106-8; q. Whiting K97. c1405 )  
1 Tortor; When it is well won knyt a knot fast ( TP XXI, 391 )  
( YP K 2 )
- L1 As meek as a Lamb  
\* Cleopa; As a lamb meke was he ay ( TP XXVII, 52 )
- L2 Worse people worse Laws  
1 Demon; The longere that day dawes--- "Wars pepill wars lawes"( TP XXX, 194  
-5 )

- L3 As heavy as any Lead  
 \* Abraham; If that my hert wax hevuy as leyde ( TP IV, 82; q. Whiting L123. a750 )  
 \* Thomas; My hart is hevuy as led ( TP XXVIII, 210; q. Whiting L123 )  
 \* Octavus; Thyne absens gars thi saull be shent and makys the hevuy as led ( TP XXVIII, 299 )  
 \* Martha; We ar hevuy as any lede ( TP XXXI, 71; q. Whiting L123 )  
 ( YP L3 )
- L4 As light as a Leaf  
 \* 1 Pastor; As light I me feyll As leyfe on a tre ( TP XIII, 357-8; q. Whiting L140. a1400 )  
 \* Mary Magdalene; I am as light as leyfe on tre ( TP XXVI, 623; q. Whiting L140 )  
 ( YP L4 )
- L4a To quake like a Leaf  
 \* Maria; Mi flesh it quakys as lefe on lynde ( TP XXIX, 360; q. Whiting L146. a1400 )
- L5 Not worth a Leek  
 Lucifer; Therof a leke what rekys vs ( TP I, 129 )  
 Abel; This is not worth oone leke ( TP II, 285; q. Whiting L185. c1300 )
- L6 To Lick on the whip  
 Noah; Ye shall lik on the whyp ( TP III, 378; OED v 3, first entry )
- L7 No Light makes the moon  
 1 Pastor; No light makethe mone ( TP XII, 433; cf. Every light is not the sun, Oxford Dictionary of English Proverbs 463 )
- L8 To be like the Lily  
 \* Lazarus; Youre lyre the lylly lyke ( TP XXXI, 145; q. Whiting L281. a1350 )
- M1 To stand up like a Mast  
 3 Tortor; A, it standys vp lyke a mast ( TP XXIII, 232; q. Whiting M400. c1300 )
- M2 As sweet as Mead  
 \* Jesus; Luf rasid me thrug his pauste it is swetter then med ( TP XXVIII, III; q. Whiting M431. a135 )  
 ( YP M1 )
- M3 To quit with the same Measure  
 Garcio; Yai. with the same measure and weght That I b ro will I qwite ( TP II, 51-2; q. Whiting M465. only this example )
- M4 Good Mending short ending  
 2 Pastor; And send theym good mendyng With a short endyng ( TP XII, 78-9; q. Whiting M500. first entry )
- M5 In the Mire  
 1 Pastor I am very, for-rakyd and run in the myre ( TP XIII, 256; cf. Whiting M573; Lay my credence in the myre, Heywood 1493; see D 29 )  
 cf. Mak; Ye haue ryn in the myr and ar weytt yit ( TP XIII, 494 )  
 3 Demon; Bot if this draght be well drawn don is in the myre ( TP XXX, 204 -5 )  
 ( YP M2 )

- M6 As white as Milk  
\* Tutiullus; Youre nek abowte as mylke (TP XXX, 324; see Whiting M545. c1000)
- M7 As round as the Moon  
\* Mak; A serkyll as rownde as moyn ( TP XIII, 278; q. Whiting M649, only this example )
- M7a Bark at the Moon  
2 Pastor; Can ye bark at the mone ( TP XIII, 662; q. Whiting M654. 1402; Feare may force a man to cast beyonde the moone, Heywood 226; see S 2 2a)
- M8 Mourning may not amend  
Joseph; Bot mowrnyng, mary, may not amende ( TP XVIII, 202; q. Whiting M729. a1425;2; see G 6 & S 1 4a )  
John; Youre mowrnyng may not amend ( TP XXII, 300 )  
Mary Magdalene; All youre mowrnyng in feyr may not his sorow sese( TP XXII 312 )  
( YP M3 )
- M9 To wither away like Muck upon mold  
\* Noah; As muk apon mold i widder away ( TP III, 62-3; q. Whiting M799, only this example )
- M10 Mutton is a good meat for glutton  
2 Pastor; Moton of an ewe that was roton, good mete for a gloton ( TP XII, 220-222; q. Whiting M813, first entry )  
2 Demon; Thai will tell no tales bot se so thai quake ffor moton; he that to that gam gose. Now namely on old tose ( TP XXX, 589-92; see T 7 )
- N1 One's sin in his Neck  
Tuttiullus; Youre synnes in youre nekkys ( TP XXX, 555; q. Whiting N43. c1385 )
- N2 Not to eat an Needle  
3 Pastor; i ete not an nedyll( TP XIII, 233; q. Whiting N67, only this example )
- N2a Not worth a Needle  
Cain; Then was myne not worth a neid ( TP II, 123; q. Whiting N69. a1200 )
- N3 Fish before the Net  
3 Pastor; Ye fysh before the nett ( TP XII, 139; q. Whiting N91. a1449; Heywood 979 )
- N4 As dark as any Night  
\* Jesus; Ther euer more is dark as nyght ( TP XXVIII, 345; q. Whiting N103. a1393 )
- N5 Now in this Now in that  
1 Pastor; Now in hart, now in heyll now in weytt, now in blast. Now in care, Now in comforth agane, Now is fayre, now is rane, Now in hart full fane, And after full sare ( TP XII, 4-9; q. Whiting N179. c1000; Heywood 1417-8)  
1 Pastor; In stormes and tempest, Now in the eest, now in the west, wo is hym has neuer rest Myd day nor morow! ( TP XIII, 4-9 )  
2 Pastor; Now in dry, now in wete, Now in snaw, now in slete ( TP XIII, 60-61 )  
3 Pastor; Now in weyll, now in wo, And all thyng wrythys ( TP XIII, 125-6 )  
Mak's Wife; It is rewthe to beholde, Now in hote, now in colde ( TP XIII, 418-9 )



- N6 Nothing is impossible for God's will  
 1 Pastor; Nothyng is inpossybyll sothly, that god wil ( TP XII, 372-3; Oxford 580; cf. Nothing is impossible to a willyng herte, Heywood 228; see T 13 )
- P1 To Sing one's Pater Noster  
 2 Pastor; Had She oones Wett Hyr Whystyll She couth Syng full clere Hyr pater noster ( TP XIII, 103-4; Pattryng the diuels pater noster to herself, Heywood 999; He maie be in my Pater noster in dede. But be sure, he shall neuer come in my Creede, Heywood 2571-2 )
- P2 As proud as a Peacock  
 \* 1 Pastor; Ther shall come a swane as prowde as a po ( TP XIII, 37; see Whiting P71. a1500, P73. 1480 )  
 \* Thomas; If that I prowde as pacok go ( TP XXVIII, 168 )
- P3 Not to rise to win a Penny  
 Noah's Wife; I hope not I myght Ryse a penny to wyn ( TP XIII, 298-99; cf. Whiting P119. c1382 )
- P4 Mass Penny  
 Noah' Wife; Ffor thi saull, without lese shuld I dele penny doyll ( TP III, 390 )  
 Mak; To gyff all in my cofer To morne at next to offer hyr hed-mas penny ( XIII, 250-2 )  
 Cf. To be delt penydole ( F. Weaver Wells Wills <1890> 25, xv. 1530; OED peeny sb 12 )
- P5 As proud as Pennyles  
 Tutiuillus; As prowde as pennyles his slefe has no poket ( TP XXX, 236; q. Whiting P110, only this example )
- P6 Not to set at a Pin  
 Noah's Wife; Set I not at a pyn ( TP III, 364; q. Whiting P212, only this example; see F2 & F8 )
- P7 After Play comes sorrows  
 1 Pastor; After oure play com sorows vnryde ( TP XII, 11; q. Whiting P255, only this example )
- P8 To teach one a new Play of Yule  
 1 Tortor; We shall teche hym, I wote a new play of yoyll ( TP XXI, 344; q. Whiting P259, only this example )
- P9 To give one the Price  
 1 tortor; I gyf hym the pryce ( TP XXI, 81; cf Whiting P372 )
- P10 When it comes to the Prick  
 Annas; Was ther neuer man so wyk bot he myght amende. when it com to the pryk right as youre self kend ( TP XXI, 262-3; q. Whiting P374. c1390 )  
 1 Demon; I trowd it drew nere the prik ( TP XXX, 370; q. Whiting P374; Ye shoote ny the pricke, Heywood 323 )
- P11 The Pot goes so long to the water  
 Noah's Wife; So long goys the pott to the water, men says, At last comys it home broken ( TP XIII, 317-9; q. Whiting P323. 1340; Heywood 2174-5; cf. neither pot broken. ner yet water spylt, Heywood 1145 & My pot is wholle, and my water cleane, Heywood 2194 )
- P12 Praise at the parting  
 1 Pastor; Prays at the partyng ( TP XII, 267; q. Whiting P39. 1450 )  
 1 Demon; Prase at the partyng ( TP XXX, 584; q. Whiting P39 )

P 13 P r i d e

1 Pastor; he that most may When he syttys in pryde, When it comys on assay  
is kesten downe wyde ( TP XII, 12-3; Therefore I warne the , Lucifer, this  
pride will turne to great distresse Chester I, 119-20 )

P 14 P u d d i n g i n t h e p o t

Cain; Ther is a podyng in the pot ( TP II. 386; q. Whiting P432, only this  
example )

P 15 O n e ' s P u r c h a s e i s b e t t e r t h a n o n e ' s  
r e n t

Caiaphas; He gettis more by purches Then bi his fre rent ( TP XXI, 161-2; q.  
Whiting P438. c1387-95 )

P 16 P e n n i l e s s P u r s e

1 Pastor; I may syng With purs penneles, That makys this heuynes, Wo is me  
this dystres ( TP XII, 32-5; q. Whiting P456. 1449; see S 7 )

R 1 T o r a i s e a R e e k

2 Pastor; She can rase vp reke if she be well nettyld ( TP XXX, 168-9; q.  
Whiting R76. a1450 )  
( Y P R 1 )

R 2 N o t t o h a v e a r e s t a n y m o r e

2 Pastor; I wyll rest in no stede tyll that I hym grete ( TP XIII, 470; see  
B 11a, D 37 & S 10 )

R 3 A f t e r R i c h e s c o m e s p o v e r t y

1 Pastor; When ryches is he, Then comys pouerte, hors-man lak cope Walkys  
then, I weyn ( TP XII. 15-8; cf. Whiting R119; see J 1 )

R 4 T o h a v e m o r e t o w o n o n e ' s R o c k

Noah's Wife; Till I haue on this hill spon a space on my rok ( TP III, 337-8)  
Mak; I haue tow on my rok more then euer I had ( TP XIII, 389; q. Whiting  
T432. c1390; Heywood 1930 )

S 1 S a i l

1 Pastor; I shal set the on sayll ( TP XII, 258; Hoise up saile. Heywood  
503 )

S 2 T o m u l t i p y a s m a n y a s t h e S a n d s

\* Jacob; To multiplye my seede as sand of see ( TP VI, 70; see Whiting S55.  
897 )

S 3 A f a l s e S c o l d h a n d a t l a s t

3 Pastor; A false skawde hang at the last ( TP XIII, 596 )

S 4 T o c a s t A l l a t s i x a n d S e v e n

1 Pastor; By my wytt to fynde to cast the world in seuen ( TP XII, 38; q.  
Whiting S359. c1385; Heywood 984 )

Herod; I shall, and that in hy set all on sex and seuen ( XVI, 128 )  
cf. Mary; Rewarde you this day as he sett all on seuen ( XII, 487 ), That  
sett all on seuen, his son has he sent ( TP XIII, 738 )

2 Tortor; Seuen is bot the seconde, the sothe for to say ( XXVI, 332 )

S 5 T o g o c l o u t y o u r S h o e s

Noah's Wife; Go cloute thi shone ( TP III, 353; q. Whiting S259, only this  
example )

- S6 Shrew can paint  
3 Pastor; I trow the shrew can paynt ( TP XIII, 210; see W16f )
- S7 To Sing "alas" (a song or care)  
Pharaoh; Ful soyn hys song shall be "alas" ( TP VIII, 141; q. Whiting S466. c1300; )  
Mary; Alas! may euer be my sang ( TP XXIII, 406; q. Whiting S466 ), Sore syghyng is my sang ( TP XXIII, 429 )  
Caiaphas; Of care may thou syng! ( TP XXI, 129; q. Whiting S473, first entry )  
cf. see I 1  
( YP S3 )
- S8 Sit still  
1 Pastor; It is better syt still then rise vp and fall ( TP XXI, 28; q. Whiting S355, first entry; Heywood 1788 )
- S9 My heart is out of Skin  
1 Pastor; My hart is out of skyn ( TP XIII, 360; see Whiting S363. c1300 )
- S10 Not to Sleep any more  
2 Pastor; I neuer slepe one nyght There I do anothere ( TP XIII, 475-6; see B11a, D37 & R1 )
- S11 His Sleeve has no pocket  
Tutiullus; As prowde as pennyles His sleeve has no poket, fful redles ( TP XXX, 236; see P4 )
- S12 As white as any Snow  
\* Moses; As whyte as snaw was his body ( TP XXV, 81; q. Whiting S437. a900 )  
( YP S5 )
- S13 Sod  
1 Pastor; As heuy as a sod I grete with myn eene ( TP XII, 21; q. Whiting S456, only this example )
- S14 I pray a Sorrow  
3 Pastor; Tytter want ye sowll then sorow I pray ( TP XII, 152 )
- S14a Sorrow helps not  
John; Ther may no sorow hym safe ( TP XXII, 297 ), I red thi sorowe thou slake. Thi Wepyng may not gayn ( TP XXIII, 356-7; Coventry 65.1022 ), cf. Whiting S514; see G6 & M8 )
- S14b Sorrow at the parting if laughter  
at meeting  
3 Pastor; Thus sorow is at partyng at metyng if ther be laghter ( TP XXIV, 397; q. Whiting S515, first entry )
- S15 If it were a Sow. . .  
1 Pastor; And it were for sogh Ther is drynk enogh ( TP XII, 274-5; cf. Sow-drunk, Whiting S534. 1529; as drunk as a sow )
- S17 Stafford blue  
Noah's Wife; You were worthi be cled In Stafford blew ( TP III, 200; q. Whiting S654, first entry )
- S18 As true as you Stand  
\* Mary Magdalene; It is as trew as ye stand thare ( TP XXVIII, 54; see Whiting S667. c1497 )

S19 He learned timely to Steal. . .  
 † Pastor; He lernyd tymely to steyll that couth not say nay ( TP XIII, 524;  
 q. Whiting S693, only this example )

S20 As hard as any Steel  
 † Thomas; Bot my hart is harde as stele ( TP XXVIII, 225 & 258; q. Whiting  
 S899. c1175 )  
 ( cf. YP S8 )

S20a As stable as any Steel  
 † 1 Angel; Syn thou art stabyll as any steyll ( TP XIX, 70; q. Whiting S701.  
 a1325 )

S20b As true as any Steel  
 † Deus; Thou was alway well wirkand to me trew as stele ( TP III, 120; q.  
 Whiting S709. c1300 )  
 † Mak; And I am trew as steyll ( TP XIII, 226; q. Whiting S709 )  
 † 1 Pastor; It is true as steyll That prophetys haue spoken ( TP XIII, 699-  
 700; q. Whiting S709 )

S21 As stiff as any Stone  
 † Mary; My harte is styf as stone ( TP XXIII, 399; q. Whiting S771. 1425 )

S21a As still as any Stone  
 † Noah; I shall make the still as stone begynnar of blunder ( TP III, 406; q.  
 Whiting S772. c1200 )  
 † 3 Filius; As still as a stoneoure ship is stold ( TP III, 525; q. Whiting  
 S772 )  
 † Imperator; FFor thy be styll as ston ( TP IX, 6 )  
 ( YP S10b )

S21b Stone-still  
 † Imperator; Ston styll ye wold syt downe ( TP IX, 12; q. Whiting S772a. a1200 )  
 † 3 Pastor; If I stande stone styll ( TP XIII, 232; q. Whiting S772a )  
 † Mak; Ye lyg stone styll ( TP XIII, 280; q. Whiting S772a )  
 ( YP S10c )

S21c As true as any Stone  
 † Noah; Thou art trew to trist as ston in the wall ( TP III, 515; q. Whiting  
 S774. a1300; cf. Heywood 1894 )  
 † Pilate; Truly as stone ( TP XXII, 99; q. Whiting S776. c1340 )  
 † Jesus; It shalbe true as any stone ( TP XXIX, 106; q. Whiting S774 )

S21d To stand like a Stone  
 † Pilate; I commaunde you, careless vnkynde, to stand as styll as any stone  
 ( TP XX, 561; q. Whiting S772 ), Stand as styll as stone in Wall ( TP  
 XXIII, 2 )  
 † Luke; He stud as still, that bright, As stone in wall ( TP XXVII, 60-1;  
 Whiting S772 )  
 ( YP S10d )

S22 As bright as the Sun  
 † Lucifer; I am a thowsand fold brighter then is the son ( TP I, 88-9; q.  
 Whiting S881. a800 )  
 † Mary; Thyn een as cristall clere that shoyn as son in sight ( TP XXIII,  
 361 )  
 † Moses; His face was like the son for bright ( TP XXV, 82; q. Whiting S881 )  
 † Jesus; Thai shall shyne as son bright and heuen haue to thare mede ( TP  
 XXVIII, 347; q. Whiting S881 )

- S22a To gape at the Sun  
 3 Tortor; Gape agans the son ( TP XXIII, 226 )  
 cf. 2 Pastor; Can ye bark at the mone? ( TP XIII, 662; q. Whiting M654. 1402; see M7a )
- S23 To Sup wisdom  
 # 2 Pastor; He has told vs full plane Wysdom to sup ( TP XII, 177-8; cf. To sup sorrow, Whiting S522. 1400 )
- T1 To Have at one's Tabard  
 2 Mulier; Haue at they tabard ( TP XVI, 357; cf. Touch one's tabard = pay him back, Whiting T1. c1400; see C8 )
- T2 To be in one Tale  
 Froward; Ye ar euer in one tayll ( TP XXI, 377; OED sb 3d. 1375 )
- T3 Thrift  
 # Cain; Lenys he me, as com thrift apou the so? ( TP II, 118 ). Who so will do after me ffull slape of thrift then shal he be ( TP II, 413-4 )  
 # 1 Pastor; Yll thryft on thy pate ( TP XIII, 150 )  
 # Herod; Mighty mahowne, as he well may, lette you neuer thryfe! ( TP XIV, 467-8 )  
 # 1 Tortor; Fful shorte shalbe his thryfte ( TP XXIII, 231 )  
 # 2 Tortor; Bot fare well, thryfte! ( TP XXIV, 391 )
- T4 As sharp as a Thistle  
 # 2 Pastor; As sharp as thystyll ( TP XIII, 101; q. Whiting T210, only this example )
- T5 Thrive-Strife  
 Garcio; Begyn he with you for to stryfe, certis, then he neuer thryfe ( TP II, 17-8 )  
 Deus; Sayf noe and his wife, ffor thay wold neuer stryfe With me ne me offend ( TP III, 106-8 )
- T5a Might one Thrive  
 # Garcio; I fend, godis forbot, that euer thrife ( TP II, 38 )  
 # Noah's Wife; Now, as euer myght I thryfe the wars I thee see ( TP III, 190 -1 ), Even as thou prays for me, As euer myght I thrife ( TP III, 242-3 ), And I am bet so bio That I may not thryfe ( TP III, 413-4 )  
 # 1 Pastor; It were greatte wonder, And euer shuld we thryfe ( TP XIII, 26-7 )  
 # 3 pastor; That shall I do, as myght I thryfe ( TP XXIII, 134 )
- T5b Long before I Thrive  
 # Garcio; Mon ye neuer thryfe ( TP II, 18 )  
 # Cain; Long or I thrife ( TP II, 205 ), How will thou do long or thou thrife? ( TP II, 410 )
- T5c It is hard to wive and Thrive  
 1 Pastor; A man may not wyfe And also thryfe, And all in a yere ( TP XII, 97-9; Heywood 873 )
- T6 As sharp (rought) as a Thorn (briar)  
 # 2 Pastor; As rugh as breere ( TP XIII, 101 )  
 # Mary; To shontt the showres sharper then thorn ( TP XXIX, 361; q. Whiting T221. c1350 )
- T7 To claw one's Toes  
 Mak; Dos noght bot lakys and clowse his toose ( TP XIII, 414; q. Whiting T356. a1400 )

## T8 From top to tail

# Satan: I know his trantes Fro top to tayll ( TP XXV, 162; cf. Whiting T424. c1300; cf. D35 )  
( YP T3 )

## T9 I have Tow on my rok... See R4

## T10 No man may lie Truth

John: The trowth shuld no man layn ( TP XXII, 282; cf. Truth can not lie. Whiting T500. c1400 )

## T11a Faith and Truth

1 Demon; Ffaith and trowth, maffay has no fete to stande ( TP XXX, 188; cf. Truth must stand. Whiting T509; a1393 )

## T12 Set in a Turd

1 Pastor: Sett in a torde ( TP XIII, 216; cf. Not give a turd. Whiting T524. c1250; Not set a stinking turd, Whiting T525. c1500 )

## T13 God turn all to good

1 Pastor: God turne all to good ( TP XIII, 130 & 375; cf. N6 )

## W1 To stand like a Wall

\* Moses: On ayther syde the see mon stand. to we be gone, right as a wall ( TP VIII, 390-1; q. Whiting W25. c1175 )  
( YP W1 )

## W2 In the Waning

Cain: In the wenyand wist ye now at last ( TP II, 226; q. Whiting W36. a1352 )  
Noah's Wife: Now walk in the Wenyand ( TP XIII, 405; q. Whiting W36 )  
Malcus: Step furth. in the wenyande ( TP XX, 748; q. Whiting W36 )  
Pilate Whistyll ye in the wenyande ( TP XXIV, 339; q. Whiting W36 )  
Caiaphas: Weynad furth in the Wenyande ( TP XXVI, 144; q. Whiting W36 )  
( YP W3 )

## W3 Wedding ( warning against marriage )

Joseph: I irke full sore with my lyfe. That euer I wed so yong a wyfe, That bargan may I ban; To me it was a carefull dede, I myght well wyt that yowthede wold haue lykynge of man ( TP X, 161-6 ), It is ill cowpled of youth and elde ( TP X, 170; q. Whiting Y33. c1390; Heywood 340 ), I was vnlykely to hir so yong. Thay sayde ther helpyd none excusynge, And wed vs thus togeder ( TP X, 266-8 ). Ffor yong women wyll nedys play them with yong men. if old forsake them. Thus it is sene always ( TP X, 302-4 ), Howsehold and husbandry fful sore I may it ban: That bargan dere I by. Yong men, bewar, red I: wedynge makys me all wan ( TP XV, 146-50; see Heywood 249-50 )

2 Pastor: These men that ar wed haue not all thare wyll, when they ar full hard sted thay sygh full styll ( TP XIII, 73-4; cf. Wedding and hanging are destiny. Whiting W164. 1546; Heywood 175-6; Wedding is the hardest band that any man may take on hand. Whiting W166. c1375 ), Wo is hym that is bun. ffor he must abyde ( TP XIII, 80-1 ), Yong men of woyng for god that you boght, Be well war of wedynge and thynk in youre thoght. "had I wylt" is a thyng it seruys of noght ( TP XIII, 91-3; First wooyng for woyng, banna for bannyng, Heywood 2205; All fryr haste to wed. it soone rebateth. Heywood 88 ), Mekyll styll mowrn-yng has wedynge home broght, And grefys ( TP XIII, 94-5 )

Peter: I dar Iay my heededde to wed, Or that we go vntill oure bed That we shall here anothere ( TP XXVIII, 56-8 )  
( see YP W4 )

- W4 To have Ween one kens more than he  
knows  
1 Magister; He wenys he kens more then he knawys ( TPXVIII, 64; q. Whiting  
W176. a1425 )
- W5 Ill spun Weft comes out evil  
Garcio; Ill spon weft ay comes foule out ( TP11, 435; q. Whiting W571.  
c1250 )  
2 Pastor; Ill spon weft, lwys, ay commys foull owte (TP XIII, 587; q. Whiting  
W571 )
- W6 Beware of the West Wind  
Tutiullus; Bewar of the West wynde youre smok lest it wafe (TP XXX, 330-1)
- W7 As great as a Whale  
\* 2 Pastor; She is as greatt as whall ( TP XIII, 105; q. Whiting W201, only  
this example )
- W8 Whetstone  
1 Tortor; He lyes for the quetstone, I gyf hym the pryce ( TP XXI, 80; q.  
Whiting W216. 1418 )
- W9 To wet one's Whistle  
2 Pastor; Had She oones Wett Hyr Whystyll She couth Syng full clere Hyr  
pater noster ( TP XIII, 103-4; q. Whiting W222. c1390 )
- W10 Widow's coyle (cabbage soup)  
Noah's Wife; Lord, I were at ese and hertely full hoylle, Might I onys  
have a measse of wedows coyll ( TP III, 388-9 )
- W11 Chastise Wife's tongue  
Noah; Yee men that has wifis whyls they ar yong, If ye luf youre lifis  
chastice thare tong ( TP III, 397-8; If a woman does not chastise herself,  
with pain may any other chastise her. Whiting W489. c1505; cf. Whiting  
W 513 & Heywood 1779-80. 2266-7 )
- W12 To have Wit to make a ship drowned  
3 Pastor; These wold by thare wytt make a shyp be drownde ( TP XII, 145; q.  
Whiting W416. only this example )
- W12a To have one's wit go out. . .  
3 Pastor; So gose youre wyttys owte evyn as lt com in ( TP XII, 173; q.  
Whiting W407, only this example )  
2 Tortor; I will wepe and I will skyp As I were now out of my wytt ( TP  
XXIV, 117-8; Let not harmfull haste so far out ren your wyt, Heywood 114 )
- W12b Wit raves  
\* Herod; With sich wylys and crokys My wytt away rafys ( TP XVI, 233-4 ),  
Ensampyll to take. In thare wyttys that rauys sich mastre to make ( TP  
XVI, 497-8 )
- W12c Wit in waight (a bad way )  
Consultus; Were not my wyse wysdom youre wyttys were in waight ( TP XXIV,  
218; Who seeth nought herein, his wit is in the wane, Heywood 2156 )  
( YP W7 )
- W13 Wait on one's Wings  
Nuncius; Ther watys on his wyngys that bold bost wyll blaw ( TP XVI, 39;  
cf. To be under another's wings. Tilley W495. 1540; Heywood 1247 )

## W14 Wolf-skin

3 Pastor; Me thocht he was lapt in a wolfe skyn ( TP XIII, 368; cf. None ought to wear the wolf's skin but he that will be like him, Whiting W446. 1484 )

## W15 Wolf-head

Caiaphas; Now wols-hede and out-horne on the be tane ( TP XXI, 139; see C14 )

## W16a Woman's advice

Mak's Wife; A woman avyse helpys at the last ( TP XIII, 342; q. Whiting W536. c1330 )

## W16b Household that wants a Woman

Noah's Wife; Ffull wofull is the householde That wantys a woman ( TP XIII, 420-1; q. Whiting. H620. only this example; No lack to lack a wife, Heywood 2750 )

## W16c Woman is ill-fettled

2 Demon; Thai ar euer in were if thai be tender, yll fetyld ( TP XXX, 164 -5; cf. In good fettled )

## W16d In Woman is no law

Paul; Wherfor in woman is no laghe, ffor she is withoutten aghe ( TP XXVIII, 45-6; q. Whiting W493, only this example )

## W16e A Woman like an apple rotten

inwardly  
Paul; Till an appyll she is lyke--withoutten faille ther is none slyke--  
In horde ther it lyse, Bot if a man assay it witterly, It is full roten  
inwardly At the colke within ( TP XXVIII, 38-43; q. Whiting W511, only  
this example )

## W16f Woman can paint

Tutiullus; When she is thus paynt, she makys it so quaynte. She lookys like  
a saynt. And wars then the deyle ( TP XXX, 265-8; see S6 & W27 )

## W16g Woman raises up a smoke

2 Demon; She that is most meke, When she semys full seke, she can rase vp a  
reke if she well nettyld ( TP XXX, 166-9; see R1 )

## W16h Woman is as sharp as a spear

\* 2 Demon; Thay are as sharp as a spere if thai seme bot slender ( TP XXX, 163 )

W16i To be afraid & lightly solaced like  
Woman

Thomas; Ye ar as women rad for blood and lightly oft solaced ( TP XXVIII, 232 )

## W16g Woman's witness

Thomas; A womans witness trowys better than that ye se ( TP XXVIII, 241 )

## W16k Who trusts woman

Joseph; Who wold any woman trow? Certys, no man that can any goode ( TP X, 174-5; q. Whiting W505. a1425 )

Peter; Ther is no trust in womans saw. No trust faith to belefe; ffor with  
thare quayntyse and thare gyle Can thay laghe and wepe som while, And yit  
nothyng theym grefe ( TP XXVIII, 30-4; q. Whiting W505 )



W17 Fair Words

3 Pastor; Ffare wordys may ther be bot luf is ther none ( TP XIII, 569; q. Whiting W581, first entry )

1 Tortor; Ffare wordys can thou paynt ( TP XXI, 21 )

cf. 3 Pastor; I trow the shrew can paynt ( TP XIII, 210 )

Y1 Yarn

Noah; Ther is garn on the reyll (TP III, 298; q. Whiting Y5, only this example; see T9 )

Collection II  
 Proverbs, proverbial expressions,  
 similes and idiomatic phrases  
 in the York Cycle

YP= York Play

A3 To look like an Ape

\* Mulier; He lokis lurkand like an nape (YP XXIX, 105; q. Whiting A145. a1300)

B1 To buy a Bargain

Noah's Wife; This bargan sall be bought (YP IX, 126; q. Whiting B42. a1352)

When we were to slyke bargane broght (YP IX, 130)

Joseph; The bargayne sall ye aby (XIII, 111)

Juda; That bargayne with bale schall he by (YP XXVI, 140)

( TP B1 )

B1a To curse a Bargain

\* Herod; This bargayne schall thai banne (YP XIX, 279)

\* Jude; That bargayne schall sche banne (YP XXIV, 11)

\* Demon; This bargayne may I banne (YP XXX, 158)

B1b To brew (make) a Bargain

\* Adam; And made this bad bargayne (YP V, 119)

\* Joseph; Itt was to me a bad barganne (YP XIII, 23), The bargayne I made thare (YP XIII, 35)

Juda; That I schulde alle this bargayne brewe (YP XXVII, 107)

B2 Not to set a Bean

Herod; A borrowed bene sette I noght be hym (YP XXXI, 102)

( TP B2 )

B3 To bark (bay) at one's Beard

Jude; Thus at my berde and ye berk (YP XXVI, 167)

Caiaphas; At his berde sall we baye (YP XXXIII, 87; q. Whiting B113; only this example)

B4 Beast in a band

Caiaphas; Itt is no burde to bete bestis that are bune (YP XXIX, 243)

3 Miles; This werke is wele nowe I warrand. For he is boune as beeste in bande (YP XXXIV, 340-1; q. Whiting B146. c1330)

B4a To be trussed like a Beast

\* 1 Miles; He schall be feste as fee (YP XXXIV, 336)

B5 To bear the Bell

Caiaphas; Sen ye bere of bewte the bell (YP XXVI, 195; q. Whiting B230. c1303)

( TP B4 )

B6 As light as a Bird on a bough

Claudus(lame man); I am als light as birde on bowe (YP XXV, 388; q. Whiting B294, first entry)

B7 Black and Blue

Lucifer; My bryghtnes es blakkeste and blo nowe (YP I, 101)

( cf. TP B6 )

- B8 As bright as a Blossom on brier  
 \* Pilate; If all my blee be as bright as blossome on brere ( YP XXVI, 20; q. Whiting B376. c1350 )
- B9 Not to give a Bone  
 2 Miles; He gettis no bettir bone ( YP XXXIV, 8; see Whiting B445. c1400 )
- B10 By Books and bells  
 \* Joseph; Thou dotist dame, by bukes and belles ( YP XIII, 179; q. Whiting B456. c1300 )
- B11 To be Bought and sold  
 Pilate; Thus schall the sothe be bought and solde ( YP XXXVIII, 449; q. Whiting B637. a1100 )
- B12 Bounteth (gift) asks reward  
 2 Pastor; For I haue herde declared Of connyng clerkis and clene, That bountith askis rewarde ( YP XV, 116-8; q. Whiting B474. only this example)
- B13 To learn to Bend and Bow  
 Pilate; It is beste for oure bote in bayle for to bowe ( YP XXVI, 270; cf. To be bent like a bow, Whiting B479 )  
 Caiaphas; But lerne yone boy bettir to bende and bowe ( YP XXIX, 349 )
- B14 Not to eat any more Bread  
 Miles; I schall lenghe so ther liffe That tho brothelles schall neuere bite brede ( YP XXXVI, 289-90; q. Whiting B520. c1400 )  
 ( TP B11a )
- B15 To burst one's Breast  
 \* Pilate; Bolde men that in batayll makis brestis to breste ( YP XXVI, 4 )
- B16 To bow the Brede (breadth) of a hair  
 Caiaphas; If yon baners bowe the brede of an hare (YP XXXIII, 242; q. Whiting B526. a1300 )
- B17 To Brew a bale  
 \* Jude; Tille hym ther brought one a boyste my bale for to brewe ( YP XXVI, 131 )  
 \* Pilate; Ye go schall to gete hym Vnto his body brew ye no bale ( YP XXVI, 289 )  
 \* Annas; Of yone losell his bale schall he brewe ( YP XXVIII, 204 )  
 \* Malcus; Howe yone boy with his boste has brewed mekill bale ( YP XXIX, 132 )  
 \* 2 Duke; That bodus outhir bourdyng or bales to brewe ( YP XXXI, 80 )  
 \* Caiaphas; The tribute to take or to trace, Forbadde he, oure bale for to brewe ( XXXVI, 55-6 )
- B18 To look like an Brock  
 Mulier; He lokis like a brokke Were he in a bande for to bayte ( YP XXIX, 115 -6; q. Whiting B558. only this example )
- C1 It is not fair to fight with a foolish Child  
 Herod; Itt is not faire to feght with a foned foode ( YP XXXI, 294 )
- C2 As clear as any Crystal  
 \* Pilate; And my coloure as cristall is cleere (YP XXXII, 25; q. Whiting C589. c1350 )  
 ( TP C15 )

- C2a As clean as any Crystal  
 \* Angel; His aungell cleere as cristall clene ( YP VII, 5; q. Whiting C588. c1350 )  
 ( cf. TP C15 )
- C3 To kiss the Cup  
 1 Miles; We counsaile you this cuppe sauerly for to kisse ( YP XXIX, 80; q. Whiting C629. a1400 )
- C4 Short Cut shall win  
 4 Miles; The shorte cutte schall wyne ( YP XXXV, 295 )
- D1 That Dance is done  
 Pharaoh; That daunce is done ( YP XI, 225; q. Whiting D9. first entry )  
 Nuncius; Nay lorde, that daunce is done ( YP XIX, 96; q. Whiting D9 )  
 ( TP D1 )
- D2 As bright as a Day  
 \* Anna Prophet; Welcome bright starne that shyneth bright as day ( YP XVII, 326; q. Whiting D33. a1300 )  
 \* Jesus; That berde is brighter than the daye ( YP XLVI, 4; q. Whiting D33 )
- D3 The Devil and his dame  
 Herod; What the deuyll and his dame schall Y now doo? ( YP XXXI, 245; q. Whiting D181. c1350; Heywood 2253-4 )
- D4 In the Devil's dispite (malice)  
 \* Herod; Pees dastard, in the deueles dispite ( YP XVI, 130 )  
 \* I Consultus; Go, in the deueles dispite ( YP XIX, 133 )
- D5 Devil draw you  
 \* Pilate; The deuyll motte you drawe ( YP XXX, 433 )  
 ( TP D6 )
- D6 Devil drown you  
 \* Pharaoh; Al Dogg! the deuyll the drowne ( YP XI, 240 ), Devill, I drowne ( YP XI, 403 )  
 \* Heord; The deueles of helle you droune ( YP XIX, 269 ), The deuyll myght hym droune ( YP XXXI, 308 )  
 ( TP D7 )
- D7 To go to the Devil of hell  
 \* Pharaoh; Fy on tham, to the devell of helle ( YP XI, 67 )  
 ( TP D10 )
- D8 Devil hang one up  
 \* 4 Miles; The deuyll hym hang! ( YP XXXV, 188 )  
 ( TP D12 )
- D9 In the devil's name  
 \* Herod; Whedir, in the deuylls name? ( YP XVI, 189 ), Schall I rise nowe, in the deuyllis name ( YP XXXI, 71 )  
 \* 1 Miles; Go, hye you hens awaye, In the deuyllis name, doune the hill ( YP XXXIV, 208-9 )  
 ( TP D17 )
- D10 Devil speed you  
 \* Cain; The devyill the speyde ( YP VII, 77 ), The devyill myght speyd both hym and the ( YP VII, 96 ), Ya, deuell ( YP VII, 60 )  
 \* Herod; A, dogges, the deuell you spede ( YP XIX, 106 )

- # 1 Miles; A, dame, the deuyll the spede ( YP XIX, 202 ), The deuell myght  
spede you bothe ( YP XIX, 220 )
- # Annas; The devill hym spede ( YP XXVIII, 220 )  
Pharaoh; The devill hym spede ( YP XI, 332 )  
( TP D21 )
- D 11 Devil in your throat  
# Herod; Wendis fourth, the deuyll in thi throte ( YP XXXI, 398 )  
( cf. TP D3 )
- D 12 In the Devil's way  
# Pharaoh; Go saie we graunte tham leue to gange In the devill way ( YP XI,  
353-4; q. Whiting D218. c1200 )  
# Herod; In the deuyll way, dogges, fy ( YP XVI, 177; q. Whiting D218 )  
# Pilate; Walke oute at the dore in the deuill way ( YP XXXII, 190; q. Whiting  
D218 )  
Satan; Honnoure? In the deuel way ( XXXVII, 133 )  
( TP D25 )
- D 13 To dance in the Devil way  
Cain; Daunce in the devil way ( YP VII, 52; q. Whiting D218. c1200 )  
Caiaphas; Daunce forth in the deuyll way ( YP XXIX, 395; q. Whiting D218 )  
Herod; Daunce on, in the deuyll way ( YP XXXI, 423; q. Whiting D218 )
- D 14 If the Devil swore  
# Herod; This gadlyng schall agayne If that the deuyll had sworne ( YP XIX,  
63-4 )  
( TP D26 )
- D 15 What (who, where) the Devil (varied)  
# Pharaoh; Why, devill, what gawdes haue they begonne? ( YP XI, 37 )  
# Herod; What deuell is best to do? ( YP XIX, 138 ), Why, there hope Y be dedis  
of the deuyll ( YP XXXI 226 ), What, deuyll, neuere a dele? ( YP XXXI, 238 ),  
What, deuyll, whedir dote we or dreme? ( YP XXXI, 270 ) What, deuyll, Y ame  
harde stedde ( YP XXXI, 277 ).  
# 1 Miles; What a deuyll is this to saye ( YP XXXIV, 206 )  
# Satan; What deuel haste thou done ay syne ( YP XXXVII, 223 )  
# 3 Miles; What deuill is this, what aylis you twoo ( YP XXXVIII, 294 )
- D 16 Devil ails one  
# 2 Filius; What a deuyll ayles hym? ( YP XXXI, 298 )  
# Pharaoh; What deuyll ayles yow so to crye? ( YP XI, 291 )  
( TP D29 )
- D 17 Devil (varied)  
# Pharaoh; No! Devill! ( YP XI, 338 )  
# 1 Miles; What, deuyll, whome schulde we drede? ( TP XXXIV, 285 )  
# 4 Miles; Whe, harrowe! Deuill, whare is he away? ( YP XXXVIII, 298 )  
# Annas; Be the deuyllis nese ( YP XXXIII, 196 )  
( TP D30 )
- D 18 To Die only once  
1 Miles; We dye but onys ( YP XXXVIII, 338; q. Whiting D242. a1400 )
- D 19 To be dumb like a Door  
# 1 Miles; Bot domme as a dore gon he dwell ( YP XXXIII, 64; q. Whiting D347.  
a1370 )

- F1 Fair and soft men go far  
Herod; Fare softly, for so will it seme ( YP XXXI, 421 )  
( TP F2 )
- F2 One bears the Flower  
Jesus; Off all women thou beris the floure ( YP XLVI, 130; q. Whiting F316. c1400 )
- F3 To dress like a Fool (-king )  
1 Duke; He schalle be rayed like a roye ( YP XXXI, 359 )  
1 Miles; To clothe hym and to croune with thorne, As falles for a fole kyng  
( YP XXXIV, 27-8; cf. To play the Fool, Heywood 2595 )
- G1 To glide like a Giant  
\* Simeon; This babb as a gyant full graythly shall glyde ( YP XVII, 449 )
- G2 To glide like the Gleam  
\* 2 Rex; Als the gleme in the glasse gladly thou glade ( YP XVI, 328; q. Whiting G130, first entry )
- G2a To glitter like the Gleam  
\* Pilate; And myne eyne thei glittir like the gleme in the glasse ( YP XXXII, 21; q. Whiting G132, only this example )
- G3 As gay as any Gold  
\* Herod; Seuene and sixti sithis Than glorius gulle that gayer is than golde  
In price ( YP XVI, 18-20; q. Whiting G287. a1425 )
- G4 Grief may not amend  
Eve; Be stille Adam. and nemen it na mare, It may not mende ( YP VI, 155-6;  
see Whiting D337 )
- H1 To have other Haftis in hands  
1 Magister; Sone, hense away I wolde thou wente, For othir haftis in hande  
haue we ( YP XX, 75-6; q. Whiting H11, only this example )
- H2 Out of Harre (joint)  
1 Miles; Harke how this harlott he heldis oute of harre ( YP XXX, 380; q. Whiting H144. c1300 )  
Caiaphas; Ye sall here how this harlott heldes out of herre ( YP XXXIII, 135;  
q. Whiting H144 )
- H3 He who enters the Hell shall never  
comes back  
Satan; Salamon saide in his sawes That whoso enteres helle withynne Shall  
neuer come oute ( XXXVII, 281-3 )
- H4 Hen-hearted  
Anna; A. henne-harte, ill happe mot you hente ( YP XXXIII, 197; q. Whiting  
H349, first entry )
- I1 Illa hail  
Pharaoh; Hopp illa hayle ( YP XI, 245 )  
Malcus; What, ille hayle, I hope that I be hole ( YP XXVIII, 291 )  
3 Miles; Come helpe to haale, with ille haile ( XXXV, 116 )  
( TP I1 )
- J1 To jangle like a Jay  
1 Miles; He jangelis like a jay ( YP XXXV, 265; q. Whiting J21. c1353 )

- K1 As kneen as any Knife  
 \* Noah; My cares aren keene as knyffe ( YP IX, 7; q. Whiting K86. a1425 )  
 \* 3 Filius; Oure cares are kene as knyffe ( YP IX, 223 )
- K2 To knit a knot  
 Juda; I sitte For therty pens in a knotte knytte ( YP XXVI, 151-2 )  
 Pilate; But Judas, a knott for to knytt ( YP XXVI, 233; q. Whiting K97.c1405 )  
 ( TP K1 )
- L1 To have one's Labor in vain  
 Demon; This trauayle is in vayne ( YP XXII, 125; q. Whiting L11. a 1338 )
- L2 To look like a Lad  
 \* 2 Filius; He lurkis, loo, and lokis like a ladde ( YP XXXI, 301 )  
 Satan; Thou has leued ay like a ladde ( XXXVII, 243 )
- L3 To look like a Lamb  
 \* Caiaphas; He lokis like a lambe ( YP XXX, 274; q. Whiting L45. c1378;  
 Heywood 2434 )
- L4 As heavy as any Lead  
 Joseph; My banes er heuy als lede ( YP XIII, 15; q. Whiting L123. a750 ),  
 Methynke myne eyne Hevye as leede ( YP XVIII, 20-1; q. Whiting L123 )  
 Mary; Myne harte is heuy as any lede ( YP XX, 207 ). My harte is heuy as  
 leede ( XXXVI, 262 )  
 Peter; My lymmys are heuy as any leede ( YP XXVIII, 21 )  
 ( TP L3 )
- L5 As light as a Leaf  
 \* Simeon; Nowe am I light as leyf on tree ( YP XVII, 346; q. Whiting L140.  
 a1400 )  
 ( TP L4 )
- L6 As light as any Levin  
 \* Jesus; Myne aungellis louely of late, lighter than the levene ( YP XLIV,  
 175; q. Whiting L213. c1375 )
- L7 Life is sweet.  
 Issac; Lyff is full swete ( YP X, 279; q. Whiting L246. c1380 )
- L8 To be like Lily  
 \* Doctor; This lady is to the lilly lyke ( YP XII, 97; q. Whiting L281. a1350 )  
 \* 1 Rex; A mayden of Israell, sais he, Shall bere one like to the lilly floure  
 ( YP XVI, 227-8 )
- L9 As even as a Line  
 \* 1 Miles; I sall holde this as even as a lyne ( YP XXXIII, 244; q. Whiting  
 L298. a1338 )
- L10 To command like a Lord  
 \* 3 Miles; Thou comaundis lightly as a lorde ( XXXV, 115 )
- M1 As sweet as Mead  
 Mary; Thi loue is swetter thanne the mede ( YP XXXIX, 89; q. Whiting M431.  
 c1350 )  
 ( TP M2 )
- M2 In the Mire  
 Satan; Thou motes his men into the myre ( YP XXXVII, 256 )  
 ( TP M5 )

- M3 Mourning may mend  
 Noah: Thanne may we witte full right When oure mornynge sall mende ( YP IX, 209-210 )  
 John: Youre mournynge it may not amende ( XXXVI, 175 )  
 Mary Cleopa: This mornynge helpe hir ne maye ( XXXVI, 273 )  
 ( TP M8 )
- M4 There is no use in Mutynge (disputynge)  
 1 Filius: All youre mutynge amendis not a myte ( YP XXXI, 335; q. Whiting M597. a1375 )
- M5 To make a Mow (grimace) on the moon  
 3 Miles: And make mowes on the mone ( YP XXXV, 286; q. Whiting M767. c1320 )  
 Annas: To mowe on the moone has he mente ( YP XXXVI, 79; q. Whiting M767 )
- O1 The Old decay and the new prosper  
 4 Citizen: The olde schall waste, the new schall gang ( YP XXV, 146 )
- O2 To look like an Owl  
 \* Mulier: Or ellis like an nowele in a stok Full preualy his pray for to wayte ( YP XXIX, 117-8; q. Whiting O75. c1400 )
- P1 To patter like a Pie  
 2 Miles: Methynke he patris like a py ( YP XXXV, 266; q. Whiting P180, only this example )
- R1 To raise a Reek  
 Anna: For thurgh his romour in this reme hath raysede mekill reke ( YP XXVI, 34; q. Whiting R76, first entry )  
 ( TP R1 )
- R2 As light as any Roe  
 \* Pilate: Now than am light as a roo ( YP XXX, 263; q. Whiting R168. c1390 )
- S1 If I Say it myself  
 Pilate's Wife: Ther is no lorde in this londe as I here, In faith, that hath a frendlyar feere Than yhe my lorde, myselffe thof I saye itt ( YP XXX, 43-5; q. Whiting S74, only this example )
- S2 To sow Seed  
 Caiaphas: And saie vnto oure souereynes, or seede more be sawen ( YP XXVI, 189; see Whiting S134. 1451 )
- S3 To Sing "alas"  
 Deus: His sange ful sone sall be "allas" ( YP XI, 128; q. Whiting S466. c1300 )  
 Maria: Of sorowes sere schal be my sang ( YP XX, 43 )  
 3 Miles: He may synge or he slepe of sorowe and angir ( XXXIII, 422 )  
 ( TP S7 )
- S4 As swift as any Snail  
 \* 1 Miles: Nowe certis that schall I doo-Full snelly as a snayle ( YP XXXV, 117-8; q. Whiting S417; Heywood Johan B1(v) 41 )
- S5 As white as any Snow  
 \* Pilate: His clothyng is as white as snowe ( YP XXIII, 97; q. Whiting S437. a900 )  
 \* Moses: Whyte as snowe was his body ( YP XXXVII, 89; q. Whiting S437 )  
 ( TP S12 )



- S6 All Sooth (truth) is not to be said  
 Abraham; Bott alle the soth is nocht to sayne ( YP X, 106; q. Whiting S485.  
 c1025 )
- S7 To Spurn rather than speed  
 Mary; I sporne ther I was wonte to spede ( YP XXXIX, 15; q. Whiting S644.  
 c1420 )
- S8 As steadfast as any Steel  
 Anna; Therefore take vs of oure knyghtis that is stedfast as stele ( YP  
 XXVIII, 166; q. Whiting S702. c1350 )  
 ( TP S20b )
- S9 As steadfast as a Stock  
 Thomas; I thanke the as stedfast stokke for to stande ( XLV, 171 )
- S10 As blind as any Stone  
 \* Cecus; I was are blynde as any stone ( YP XXV, 356; q. Whiting S757. c1300 )
- S10a As naked as a Stone  
 \* I Miles; But naked as a stone be stedde ( YP XXXIV, 312; q. Whiting 766.  
 c1440 )
- S10b As still as any Stone  
 \* Joseph; But halde the stille als stane ( YP XIII, 193; q. Whiting S772.c1200 )  
 \* Herod; And stille as stone ye stande ( YP XIX, 4; q. Whiting S772 )  
 \* Pilate; Bidde them...stande still as a stone ( YP XXX, 374; q. Whiting S772 )  
 \* 2 Filius; Why standis thou as stille as a stone here? ( YP XXXI, 324. q.  
 Whiting S772 )  
 ( TP S21a )
- S10c Stone-still  
 \* 3 Rex; And stedde yone sterne to stande stone stille ( YP XVI, 84; q. Whiting  
 S772a. a1200 )  
 \* Juda; And stedde hym stone stille ( YP XXVIII, 175; q. Whiting S772a )  
 \* I Dux; Stalkis furthe be yone stretis or stande stone still ( YP XXXI, 62;  
 q. Whiting S772a ), Hym had leuere haue stande stone still ther he stode  
 ( YP XXXI, 252; q. Whiting S772a )  
 \* Pilate; Ye stirre with no striffe but stande stone stone still ( YP XXXII,2;  
 q. Whiting S772a )  
 \* I Miles; Stirre nocht ones in this stede but stonde stille ( YP XXXIV, 2;  
 q. Whiting S772a )  
 ( TP S21b )
- S10d To stand like a Stone  
 \* 4 Miles; He made vs stande as any stones ( YP XXXV, 217; q. Whiting S786.  
 a1000 )  
 ( TP S21d )
- S10f One might as well stir a stock like  
 a Stone  
 \* Herod; A man myght as wele stere a stokke as a stone ( YP XXXI, 278; q.  
 Whiting S745, only this example )
- S11 Not stine (step) over two Straw  
 Joseph; And may nocht wele tryne over two strase? ( YP XIII, 13; q. Whiting  
 S814. first enytry; Heywood 1069 )
- S12 To shine like the Sun  
 \* Peter; His face schynes as the sonne ( YP XXIII, 98 )

## S 13 Sword of sorrow

John: The swerde of sorowe schulde renne Thurghoute the herte ( XXXIV, 148  
-9 )

Mary: A swerde of sorowe me smyte ( XXXVI, 159 )

S 13a He who takes the Sword shall perish  
by the sword

Malcus: For he that strikis with a swerd with a swerde schall be smitten ( YP  
XXIX, 146; q. Whiting S978 )

## T 1 To hang like a Thief

\* Mary: Allas, My lorde...Hyngis as a theffe ( YP XXXVI, 139-42; q. Whiting  
T82. a1450 )

## T 2 Might one Thrive

# 1 Miles: Ther ill mot thou thryve ( YP XXXIII, 419 )

# 3 Miles: So motte I thryve ( YP XXXV, 246 )

# Thomas: So motte I thryue ( YP XLI, 143 )  
( TP T5a )

## T 3 From Top to tail

# 1 Miles: Go to the kyng and tell hyme fro toppe vnto tayle ( YP XXXI, 196;  
Whiting T420. c1400 )

# Satan: I knowe his trantis fro toppe to taile ( YP XXXVII, 159; q. Whiting  
T420 )  
( TP T8 )

## T 3a Top and tail

# 1 Miles: Faste on a corde And tugge hym to, by toppe and taile ( YP XXXV.  
113-4; q. Whiting T424. c1300 )

## T 4 As large as Tuns

1 Perigrinus: Thanne was his tounge tome as a tonne ( YP XL, 127; q. Whiting  
T518. c1421 )

## T 5 As well talk to a toom (empty) Tun

Caiaphas: We myght als wele talke tille a tome tonne ( YP XXIX, 247; q.  
Whiting T519, only this example )

## W 1 To stand like a Wall

\* Moses: On aythir syde the see sall stande. Tille we be wente, right as a  
wall ( YP XI, 379-80; q. Whiting W25. c1175 )

( TP W1 )

## W 2 As weak as a Wand

\* Joseph: I waxe as wayke as any wande ( YP XVIII, 17; q. Whiting W32. a1400 )

## W 3 In the Waning

Cain: In wilde waneand? ( YP VII, 45; q. Whiting W36. a1352 )

Herod: Welde tham in woo to wonne. in the wanyand ( YP XVI, 37; q. Whiting  
W36 )

Pilate: Nowe walkis on in the wanyand ( YP XXXII, 389; q. Whiting W36 ),  
Furth in the wylde wanyand be walkand ( YP XXXIII, 485; q. Whiting W36 )

( YP W2 )

## W 4 Wedding

Joseph: Thou art yonge and I am alde, Slike werkis yf I do walde. Thase games  
fra me are gane ( YP XIII, 194-6 )

( TP W4 )

W5 To Ween one kens more than he knows  
 1 Magister; He wenes he kens more than we knawes (YP XX, 90; q. Whiting W176.  
 a1425 )

W6 To waste as Wind (As waste as Wind)  
 \* Doctor; Thir wise wordis ware nocht wroght in waste, To waffe and wende  
 away als wynde ( YP XII, 53-4; q. Whiting W341. c1390 )  
 \* Mary; I trowe oure wittis be waste as wynde ( YP XX, 16; q. Whiting W297.  
 c1375 )  
 \* Peter; Woman, thy wordis and thy wynde thou not waste ( YP XXIX, 119 )

W6a Words are but Wind  
 1 Miles; For wordis are as the wynde ( YP XXX, 236; q. Whiting W643. c1000)

W7 Wit is in danger  
 Satan; For woo my witte es in a were ( YP V, 1 )  
 ( TP W12c )

W7a Wit fails one  
 2 Filius; Or ellis his witte faylis hym ( YP XXXI, 302 )

W7b Wit is wasted  
 Mary Magdalene; Mi witte is waste nowe in wede ( XXXIX, 9 )

W8 Both Witty and wise  
 Pilate; Yhe schulde be bothe witty and wise ( YP XXX, 456 )  
 Caiaphas; Als witte and wisdome youre will schal be wroght ( YP XXX, 522 )

W9 Women can excuse them well  
 Joseph; Excuse tham wele there women can ( YP XIII, 162; q. Whiting W533,  
 only this example )

W9a Women are ill-tempered  
 Peter; For women are crabbed ( YP XXIX, 128 )

W9b Woman's wit is light  
 Adam; What womans witte was light! ( YP VI, 133 )

W9c Woman is witless  
 Adam; Bot sethyn that woman wittleles ware ( YP VI, 136 )

W9d Who trust Woman  
 Adam; Nowe God late never man affir me Triste woman tale ( YP VI, 149-50 )

Table I

Proverbs proverbial phrases  
similes and idiomatic phrases  
in the Towneley Cycle

	proverbs	similies	idiomatic phrases
A	1 (5) (0)	1 (0) (0)	0 (0) (0)
B	9 (18) (9)	3 (3) (3)	1 (3) (0)
C	13 (17) (5)	2 (3) (2)	0 (0) (0)
D	15 (18) (13)	3 (3) (1)	24 (66) (0)
E	2 (2) (2)	1 (1) (0)	1 (1) (0)
F	7 (11) (7)	6 (6) (5)	0 (0) (0)
G	5 (8) (3)	2 (2) (2)	2 (5) (0)
H	7 (8) (4)	1 (1) (0)	0 (0) (0)
I	1 (4) (1)	0 (0) (0)	0 (0) (0)
J	2 (2) (1)	0 (0) (0)	0 (0) (0)
K	1 (2) (1)	0 (0) (0)	0 (0) (0)
L	4 (5) (1)	5 (9) (7)	0 (0) (0)
M	8 (11) (5)	4 (4) (3)	0 (0) (0)
N	6 (10) (5)	1 (1) (1)	0 (0) (0)
O	0 (0) (0)	0 (0) (0)	0 (0) (0)
P	15 (18) (11)	1 (2) (0)	0 (0) (0)
R	4 (5) (2)	0 (0) (0)	0 (0) (0)
S	19 (25) (11)	11 (22) (16)	1 (1) (0)
T	9 (10) (1)	2 (3) (2)	4 (14) (0)
W	26 (44) (18)	3 (3) (3)	1 (2) (0)
Y	1 (1) (1)	0 (0) (0)	0 (0) (0)
TOT.	155 (225) (101)	46 (63) (45)	34 (92) (0)

NOTES: First number = number of items  
Second number in parentheses = real number of phrases  
Third number in parentheses = number of phrases quoted in Whiting

Table II

Proverbs proverbial phrases  
similes and idiomatic phrases  
in the York Cycle

	proverbs			similies			idiomatic phrases		
A	0	(0)	(0)	1	(1)	(1)	0	(0)	(0)
B	16	(21)	(10)	2	(2)	(1)	4	(12)	(0)
C	3	(3)	(1)	2	(2)	(2)	0	(0)	(0)
D	4	(7)	(7)	2	(3)	(3)	13	(29)	(2)
F	3	(4)	(1)	0	(0)	(0)	0	(0)	(0)
G	1	(1)	(0)	4	(4)	(3)	0	(0)	(0)
H	4	(5)	(4)	0	(0)	(0)	0	(0)	(0)
I	3	(3)	(0)	0	(0)	(0)	0	(0)	(0)
J	1	(1)	(1)	0	(0)	(0)	0	(0)	(0)
K	1	(2)	(1)	1	(2)	(1)	0	(0)	(0)
L	3	(7)	(4)	7	(8)	(4)	0	(0)	(0)
M	5	(8)	(4)	0	(0)	(0)	0	(0)	(0)
N	0	(0)	(0)	0	(0)	(0)	0	(0)	(0)
O	1	(1)	(0)	1	(1)	(1)	0	(0)	(0)
P	1	(1)	(1)	0	(0)	(0)	0	(0)	(0)
R	1	(1)	(1)	1	(1)	(1)	0	(0)	(0)
S	10	(13)	(6)	9	(17)	(17)	0	(0)	(0)
T	2	(2)	(2)	1	(1)	(1)	2	(6)	(2)
U	13	(10)	(6)	3	(5)	(4)	0	(0)	(0)
TOT.	71	(89)	(50)	35	(48)	(40)	19	(47)	(4)

NOTES: First number = number of items  
Second number in parentheses = real number of phrases  
Third number in parentheses = number of phrases quoted in Whiting

Table III

	proverbs	*		proverbs	*
I	1	1	XVIII	3	0
II	13	2	XIX	0	1
III	15	5	XX	3	0
IV	0	2	XXI	20	1
V	0	0	XXII	5	1
VI	1	0	XXIII	8	5
VII	2	0	XXIV	7	1
VIII	3	1	XXV	0	2
IX	0	0	XXVI	1	0
X	5	1	XXVII	0	0
XI	0	0	XXVIII	7	9
XII	30	0	XXIX	0	3
XIII	50	13	XXX	27	2
XIV	0	1	XXXI	6	3
XV	2	1	XXXII	0	0
XVI	15	3	XXXIII	0	0
XVII	0	0			

Table IV

	proverbs	*		proverbs	*
I	1	0	XXV	1	1
II	0	0	XXVI	7	1
III	0	0	XXVII	0	0
IV	0	0	XXVIII	3	1
V	1	0	XXIX	9	3
VI	4	0	XXX	5	2
VII	2	1	XXXI	7	6
VIII	0	0	XXXII	1	4
IX	3	2	XXXIII	6	2
X	2	0	XXXIV	3	3
XI	3	1	XXXV	5	4
XII	0	2	XXXVI	5	1
XIII	6	2	XXXVII	2	3
XIV	0	0	XXXVIII	2	1
XV	1	0	XXXIX	2	1
XVI	2	4	XL	1	0
XVII	0	2	XLI	0	0
XVIII	1	2	XLII	0	0
XIX	1	1	XLIII	0	0
XX	4	1	XLIV	0	1
XXI	0	0	XLV	1	0
XXII	1	0	XLVI	1	1
XXIII	0	1	XLVII	0	0
XXIV	0	1			