

George Bernard Shaw was born in Dublin in 1856. He wrote plays. Shaw was a very witty man. He wanted to change the things that were wrong in the world. He didn't like the things that were false.

He won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1925. People thought that Shaw was a second William Shakespeare. Today, in the 21st century, not many people think that, but a lot of people go to his his plays.

Here are two sayings from his plays:

„He who can, does. He who cannot, teaches.“

„Liberty means responsibility. That is why most people dread it.“

Famous plays are *Arms and the Man*, *Saint Joan* and *Pygmalion*.



**Arms and the Man** takes place during the 1885 Serbo-Bulgarian War. A young Bulgarian woman, Raina Petkoff, is engaged to Sergius, one of the heroes of that war. One night, Captain Bluntschli, a Swiss voluntary soldier in the Serbian army, bursts through her bedroom window and begs her to hide him, so that he is not killed. Raina complies, though she thinks the man a coward, especially when he tells her that he does not carry pistol cartridges, but chocolates. When the battle is over, Raina and her mother sneak him out of the house. The war ends and Sergius returns to Raina. Raina begins to find Sergius tiresome, but she hides it. Bluntschli unexpectedly returns so that he can see her. Raina and her mother are shocked, especially when her father Major Petkoff and Sergius reveal that they have met Bluntschli before and invite him to stay for lunch and to help them with troop movements. Later, left alone with Bluntschli, Raina realizes that he respects her as a woman, as Sergius does not. She tells him that she had left a portrait of herself in the pocket of the coat, inscribed "To my chocolate-cream soldier." What follows are twists and turns with lost portraits, challenges to duel, inheritances and declarations of love.

**Saint Joan** is based on the life and trial of Joan of Arc. Published not long after the canonization of Joan of Arc by the Roman Catholic Church, the play dramatises her life and records of her trial (She was burnt as a witch by the English at Rouen). Shaw studied the facts and decided that the concerned people acted in good faith according to their beliefs.

**Pygmalion** (1913) is inspired by the Greek myth of the same name. It tells the story of Henry Higgins, a professor of phonetics who makes a bet with his friend Colonel Pickering that he can successfully turn a Cockney flower girl, Eliza Doolittle, into a refined society lady by teaching her how to speak with an upper class accent and training her in etiquette. During the teaching Higgins falls in love with Eliza but she declares she will marry Freddy, a young, poor gentleman.

witty: witzig, gewitzt  
arms: Waffen  
engaged: verlobt  
to comply: einwilligen  
coward: Feigling  
cartridges: Patronen  
to sneak: heimlich gehen  
reveal: enthüllen  
to challenge: herausfordern  
to inherit: erben  
trial: Gerichtsverhandlung  
canonization: Heiligsprechung  
according: gemäss

- Kann man die Dinge ändern, die falsch sind? .....
- .....
- Sie denkt, er sei ein Feigling. ....
- .....
- Sie sagt ihm, sie habe einen Brief in der Tasche des Mantels gelassen. ....
- .....
- Eliza spricht mit einem Cockney-Akzent. ....
- .....
- Er sagt, dass die Leute in gutem Glauben gehandelt hätten. ....
- .....
- Sergius sagt, dass er den Hauptmann schon vorher getroffen habe. ....
- .....
- Bluntschli bittet Raina, ihn in ihrem Schlafzimmer zu verstecken. ....
- .....

„man“ ist **you** oder **we**, seltener **one** oder **people**.  
„sei“, „habe“ ist Konjunktiv. Der Konjunktiv ist im Englischen ganz selten. Also mit Präsens übersetzen.  
etwas sagen: to **say**;  
aber **jemandem** etwas sagen: to **tell**;  
sprechen heißt to **speak**  
In **dass-Sätzen** das **that** möglichst weglassen.