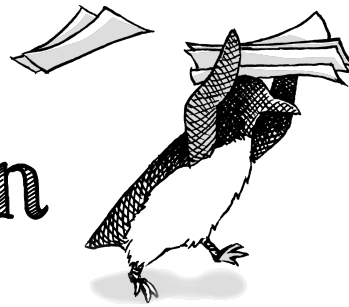




Why Is My Verse So Barren and So Flat?



You attend a play at the Snow Globe Theatre, but some of the characters are missing.

Cast List:

FOURTEEN A man who keeps borrowing stuff from his friends and countrymen
SEVEN A man who has seen the wavering commons
ELEVEN A weaver who's kind of an ass
SIX A country bumpkin who mixes up letters
THREE An heiress who steals half of her sister's inheritance
TWELVE A servant with a pet Crab
THIRTEEN An ancient king who's ready to downsize
TEN An Athenian with a conveniently rich aunt who lives out of town
NINE A man who gaslights a venomous mammal
ONE A prankster who's really into eyedrops
FIVE A teen who compares his lover to something hot and gassy
EIGHT A servant whose boss keeps talking about tomorrow
TWO A kidnapper who falls in love with a mechanical donkey
FOUR An accidental bandit king

Do lend an **THIRTEEN** and hear a tragic play.
We know one of a wicked **TWELVE** who
Does use a poisoned **ONE** the queen to slay.
A **SEVEN**-wearing man, he says, "Et tu?"
To plotters trying to **TWO** his crown.
We could do a **FOUR** tale of strife
In which a **FIVE**'s advisor takes him down
By spreading words of **TEN** 'gainst his wife.
The troupe's too sad to speak **NINE** verse;
The leads were given **EIGHT** and bad reviews
Which did **FOURTEEN** them so they quit. And worse,
The understudies just **THREE** their cues!
And though our premier **SIX** have withdrawn,
Our **ELEVEN** says the show must still go on!