

Ariel, the “airy spirit” of *The Tempest*, sings this brief song in Act I, Scene 2, to Prince Ferdinand, who has lost his father at sea in the dreadful storm that opens the play. But the father is not really dead. Unknown to Ferdinand, he has been washed up onto the island on which the play takes place.

Full Fathom Five

William Shakespeare

Full fathom five thy father lies;
Of his bones are coral made:
Those are pearls that were his eyes:
Nothing of him that doth fade,
5 But doth suffer a sea change
Into something rich and strange.
Sea nymphs hourly ring his knell:
Ding-dong.
Hark! I hear them—Ding-dong, bell.

7. **knell** (nel) *n.*: tolling of bells at a funeral.

