

DISCOVER THE HISTORY, COMEDY AND TRAGEDY
OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST PLAYWRIGHT



SHAKESPEARE

for **EVERYONE**



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MAGIC
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Learning Resources

SHAKESPEARE

for

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A Visit to the Theatre

Playscripts are fun to write and are a great way to introduce your class to Shakespeare.

This project can be completely flexible to fit the needs of your pupils. You could use the first couple of activities in Guided Reading sessions or blockout a few days and do them all! Don't forget to tag us in your creations! **@magiccatpublishing**

PLAYSCRIPTS

1. Read and Discuss

Give the children time to read 2-3 summarised plays.

Suggested pages:

- **Midsummer Night's Dream (p. 18)**
- Romeo and Juliet (p. 26)
- **Hamlet (p. 28)**
- Julius Caesar (p. 29)
- **King Lear (p. 30)**
- Macbeth (p. 31)



Discuss which plays the pupils prefer and why using these prompts:

- Tell me what you understood about one of the plays.
- Which character was most/ least like you and why?
- In 'King Lear', Goneril and Regan flatter their father so they can get what they want from him. When have you done that? What might they say to him?
- In 'Macbeth' Lady Macbeth feels really guilty. What might she be thinking at that point? When have you felt like that?
- Which story do you think we should turn into a play?



2. Explore

Cut the summary up (take the numbers off!) and ask the children to put them into the correct order to check for understanding. Stick these on a larger piece of paper and imagine what each character might be saying and thinking at these different points. Use speech and thought bubbles to explore the characters.

At this point you can either proportion one play out into sections through the class or all pupils can do the whole play.

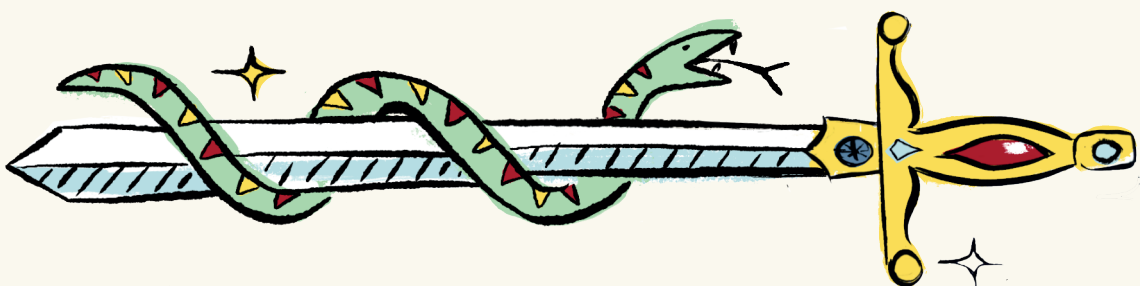
Note: if you're going to do the next activity and make the theatre, make sure the pupils limit the number of settings within their play to 3.

3. Write

What would we expect to see in a playscript?

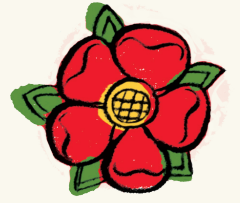
Use these answers to create your own success criteria grids. These success criteria should be displayed throughout the project and can be used to evaluate the scripts at the end.

Example Success Criteria Grid- the last one is left blank for your children to add their own target such as letter formation or apostrophes for possession.





Success Criteria Grid



	Me	Teacher
At the beginning of each scene write a brief description .		
Stage directions (tell the actors what to do) go in brackets. E.g. walk into the centre stage and begin to cry		
Write speaker's name on the left then a colon eg Macbeth:		
Write what they say (dialogue) without inverted commas		
Use the present tense e.g. I am overwhelmed by my sadness!		

Look back at what you produced from the 'Explore' section. We need to turn the speech and thought bubbles into a play now. If you're not sure about the details of the play you can be creative!

For example, from the first part of Macbeth, you might write this:

Macbeth, I must congratulate you, again, on your wondrous victory on the battlefield. You are an incredible hero to so many. We must hurry home to tell everyone the good news.



Scene 1

A dark forest by the castle

Macbeth, Banquo, three witches

Enter Macbeth and Banquo on horseback

Banquo: Macbeth, I must congratulate you, again, on your wondrous victory on the battlefield. You are an incredible hero to so many. We must hurry home to tell everyone the good news.

Macbeth: Why, thank you for your kind words dear Banquo. However, I fear we may be lost. This dark night is playing us. Which way do you think it is to the castle?

Now it's your go...

Scene description:

These characters are in this scene:

Stage directions:

Character name:

What do they say?

Additional comments:

LET'S BUILD

This activity focuses on page 8-9 'Shakespeare's Theatres' in the text. You may also want to use page 58-59 'Shakespeare's Future'.

1.Read

Give the children the pages to whisper read in pairs or listen to the information as you read out loud. Use the following prompts to clarify their understanding:

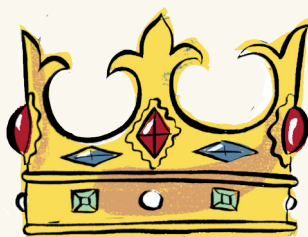
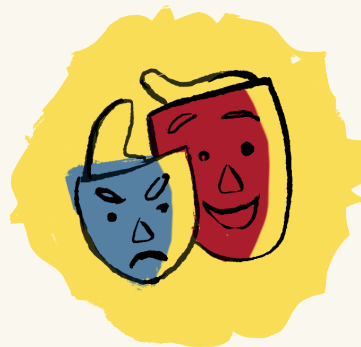
- Tell me about the theatres in which Shakespeare performed his plays.
- Tell me about the theatre now- how are the experiences the same/ different?

2.Research

Use the internet to research Burbage Theatre and The Globe Theatre. Then, compare them to a modern London theatre such as the Barbican.

You could talk about:

- Types of plays
- Seat Types and viewing areas
- Price of tickets
- Intended audience
- Stage shape



3. Make

Gather the resources you have available to you in school and give each child a shoebox. Plan out how to make your own Shakespeare style theatre.

You will need:

- one shoebox per child
- scissors
- paper
- thin cardboard
- coloured pens
- blutak
- sticky tape
- long lolly sticks / skewers



To make the theatre:

1. Take the lid off the shoebox and lay it on its longest side.
2. Carefully cut a long rectangle on the top, making sure you leave a few centimetres of cardboard around the edges - this is the Space to put your puppets through so they can appear on stage.
3. Make a backdrop by drawing the landscape in the play on a piece of paper and blutaking it to the back inside wall of the box (this means you can easily change scenes).
4. On thin card draw details for your stage. Trees or plants could be stuck along the bottom, clouds could be hung from the top

To make the Puppets:

1. Look at some of the characters in your play and use the book to research what they would have worn. Sketch some ideas on thin card and colour them in. Make sure they're not too big to fit in the box!
2. Cut around your character and stick a long lollypop stick to the back with sticky tape, making sure the majority of the lollypop stick comes out of the top of the characters head!
3. You can now lower the character into your theatre

