

Shakespeare- Year 8, Term 5

The Context of the Plays: Shakespeare gives us a glimpse into a world of the past: the world of the Tudors and Jacobean. Playwrights needed noble or royal patrons to support them to do their work and you can see how 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' may have been written to entertain and flatter Elizabeth I (England's own 'fairy queen') and how a play like 'Macbeth' was written to interest James I who had a morbid fear of witchcraft (and no doubt, usurpers to the crown after the Gunpowder Plot!) We glimpse details right down to the beliefs of the time period about the universe, the stars, even the human body. We see how the Renaissance was flourishing across Europe and the worries that nations had about religion and good governance ('The Tempest' begins with a good and rightful ruler who has been cast out to sea). You will learn about The Globe Theatre where much of Shakespeare's work was staged in his own day and how it has been recreated on London's South Bank. Playhouses were not respectable places in Tudor /Jacobean times and behaviour at the theatre was that of the rabble! Shakespeare is still regarded as one of the most important playwrights that ever lived. He wrote 37 plays (at least) and a range of poems and sonnets. He wrote comedies, tragedies and histories and his plays can be looked at on the individual level, the social level and the natural level.

Magic 5 Skills

Vocal skills: Pitch, Pace, Pause, Projection, Tone, Accent

Physical skills: Movement, Facial Expression, Gait, Posture, Gesture, Body Language

Space and Interaction: Use of Space, Use of Set, Stage Position, Interaction with other Actors

Directing: Stage Directions, Blocking, Dialogue, Subtext, Message of the play, Dramatic Intention

Design: Lighting, Sound, Costume, Set, Props, Puppetry, Setting & Context

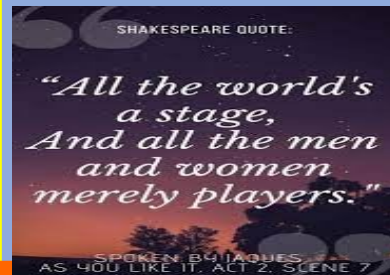
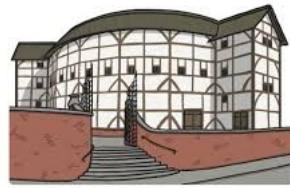
Links

What you have done: You will be using your knowledge of 'stock characters' from the Commedia genre at times in this topic. The Shakespeare play 'Twelfth Night' uses some Commedia themes. After your study of Greek Theatre in Year 7, our glimpse into Tudor/Jacobean theatre continues your theatre history journey!

What you will go on to do: Some students choose Shakespeare scripts at GCSE! You will also look at a range of theatre makers in Year 9 and some contemporary theatre makers who have chosen Shakespeare plays to adapt for modern audiences.

You can learn about many aspects of Shakespeare's life and works from:
www.shakespeare.org.uk/explore-shakespeare/shakespedia/shakespedia-index/

The Globe Theatre



Cross-Curricular Links:

English Literature: Shakespeare's plays are a key part of the literary canon and are studied in both subjects.

History: Shakespeare is part of our national heritage and gives us a glimpse into life in Tudor and Jacobean times.

PE: You will use a lot of movement in the scenes we do in this topic, using balance and coordination to create conflict and comedy!



What plays will we look at?

Shakespeare's plays draw on universal themes and human emotions that any audience, in any place and time period, can identify with. No wonder the plays remain as popular today as they were in Shakespeare's day! We will look at themes of conflict and love in 'Romeo and Juliet' as well as themes of anger and revenge in 'King Lear'. We will look at comedic foolishness in 'The Tempest' and the silly play performed by the mechanicals at a royal wedding in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' as well as ambition and magic in 'Macbeth'. We will see how a Commedia dell'Arte story line snuck into Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night' in the form of a practical joke played on a servant with an infatuation with the mistress of his household. We 'dip' into different plays in this unit of work so that you can see some of the highlights of the plays and the sheer variety of Shakespeare's plays. We hope you will be inspired to go and read or see more!

Drama Star Skills



R	A	G

Creativity

Teamwork

Resilience

Leadership

Performance skills

Evaluation