

## Schools Connect

### Introduction to Shakespeare's World

**Objective:**

To introduce students to the world of the playwright.  
To encourage practical engagement.

**Shakespeare Bingo** (*Resource sheet below*)

Students move quickly around the room to secure signatures from individuals who meet the criteria for each box.

*A fun activity which gets students on their feet ready for the lesson ahead. The sheet can be adapted for differentiation.*

**Practical Engagement**

Ensemble warm up game.

Ask students to find their own space.

On your command they are to walk around the room changing direction to move into space whenever they can.

Teacher calls out a number. Students have five seconds to form a group of that number.

Explain to students they have ten seconds to create an object beginning with a letter of the teacher's choice.

Repeat the process. Change the challenge – ask students to create a particular object eg washing machine / kitchen appliance / Eiffel Tower

*A fun activity which encourages ensemble work and quick decision-making*

Return to walking the room independently

Ask students to walk the room as a **spy / prince / thief / beggar / soldier / queen /**

You may wish to add adjectives to get the students moving away from stereotypes eg. A timid soldier, a clumsy spy

*An exercise which encourages students to take on characters.*

### **The Magic Door**

Call out a number. Students have five seconds to form a group of that number.

Explain that the students are now going to create a magic doorway which will lead into the past to Elizabethan London where Shakespeare wrote and performed his plays.

What form will this door take? What magic sounds might we hear as we pass through? What might we hear on the other side?

Allow time for groups to create doorway together.

Countdown to form doorways together. Then allow students to pass through each other's doorway. Ask students to describe the experience.

### **Walk and Talk.**

Teacher puts students into pairs.

One partner has eyes closed. The other leads the student on a journey around the Elizabethan streets of London.

As they walk describe the sights and sounds and obstacles on the journey and allow students to respond in the moment.

(eg. 'A dog rushes across your path almost knocking you over. A maid opens the door and throws a bucket of dirty water into the street. The smell of roasting chestnuts is in the air.')

Leading student can take over and supply personal commentary to their partner.

Swap roles

*An effective way to generate an understanding of the environment. Students are able to explore different senses to help bring the world alive.*

### **Role Play**

Hand out Elizabethan Role Play cards to pairs. (See resource sheets below)

Teacher gives class twenty seconds to create a frozen picture showing their characters in action.

Teacher counts down so whole class creates a frozen image together.

Ask students to bring their frozen image to life on the count of 3-2-1.

Call 'freeze' to bring role play to an end.

Explain to students that they are going to rehearse their scenes to make them more effective.

Encourage them to add dialogue and action.

Give students several minutes to practise.

Teacher walks the 'streets' and pairs come to life as you approach

*This allows students time to establish short scenes which develop characters and situation.*

## **Shakespeare!**

In the middle of this world, Shakespeare was creating stories for actors to perform on the stage.

Ask students to create frozen images to match the titles the teacher announces –

Stories about...

**Witches**...3,2,1 Freeze

**Battles**

**Ghosts**

**Murder**

**Marriage**

**Love**

**Jealousy**

**Courage**

Tell the class that the final frozen image will be an image that we all create together.

And stories about **SHIPWRECKS!**

*An opportunity to introduce students to some themes in the plays.*

## CHARACTER CARDS

<p>You are selling fruit and vegetables on a market stall.</p>	<p>You are roasting chestnuts and selling them to people who pass by.</p>
<p>You are feeding and grooming your horse.</p>	<p>You are eating and drinking outside an inn.</p>
<p>You are children playing in the street.</p>	<p>You are actors rehearsing a play.</p>
<p>You are traders unloading a cart.</p>	<p>You are visitors to London and you are lost.</p>
<p>You are sweeping the area outside your front door.</p>	<p>You are carpenters making furniture.</p>
<p>You are servants buying food for your master.</p>	<p>You are blacksmiths making swords and horseshoes.</p>

<p>You are mixing and selling potions and medicines.</p>	<p>You are up to no good!</p>
<p>You are friends gossiping in the street.</p>	<p>You are gambling with dice and cards.</p>
<p>You are preparing food to sell in your shop.</p>	<p>You are begging in the street.</p>
<p>You are cobblers mending boots.</p>	<p>You are arguing with a trader because you have been over-charged.</p>

## Shakespeare Bingo

Find someone who...

Has seen a Shakespeare play	Knows where Shakespeare was born	Can quote a Shakespeare line
Can name five Shakespeare plays	Can name five Shakespeare characters	Knows who was queen of England when Shakespeare was alive
Knows the name of a theatre where Shakespeare performed his plays	Knows what all the actors who played female roles in Shakespeare's plays had in common	Can name some of the different genre of the plays Shakespeare wrote

When you have found someone to answer your question they should sign the relevant section.