



Overview of Topic

The topic acts as an introduction to Shakespeare and some of his key plays, scenes and characters. You will look at the historical context for Theatre in the Elizabethan period and how language informs movement and meaning. You will work practically to portray the characters and scenes and will also devise and adapt your own scenes.

Context

William Shakespeare (26 April 1564 – 23 April 1616) was an English playwright, poet, and actor, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's greatest dramatist. He wrote 39 plays and 154 sonnets. His plays have been translated into every major language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright.

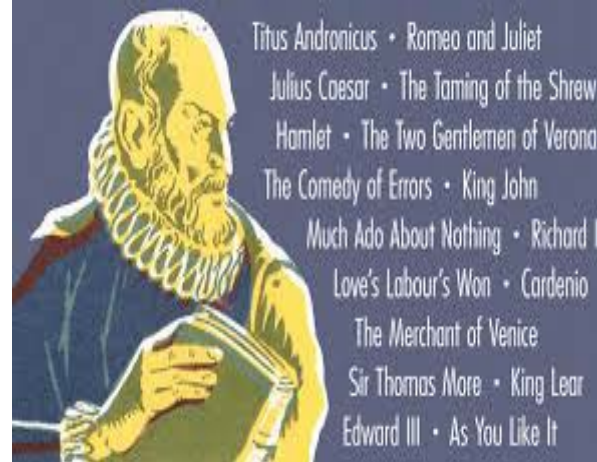


The Globe Theatre The Globe Theatre is built 'in the round' and has an open roof. This is very typical of an Elizabethan Theatre. Why do you think this was? Electricity was not invented, so the sky acted as the lighting on stage. Wealthier members of the audience would have sat in the galleries, whilst the poorer

members would have stood in the courtyard. Boys would have played the female roles as women could not act as their voices hadn't yet broken, so suited the roles.

The Plays

Shakespeare's plays are split into three categories – **Tragedies, Comedies and History** Plays. Most of the plays are split into **Acts** with a clever plot line and characters and a common theme is mistaken identity and good versus evil.



"All the World's a Stage"



Key Words

Blank verse: unrhymed iambic pentameter: a line of five iambs (stresses)

Dramatic irony: This occurs when the audience know more about what is happening than some of the characters themselves know

Iambic Pentameter: A weak stress followed by a strong stress in a sequence of 5.

E.g. I am I am I am I am I am ('am' being the stressed syllable)

Oxymoron: A figure of speech in which contrasting terms are brought together

E.g. 'sweet sorrow'

Poetic verse: A style of speech in Shakespeare's plays using rhyming couplets and a strong rhythmic pulse to the line

Prose: Any language that is not patterned by the regularity of some kind of metre

Pun: a play on words: two different meanings are drawn out of a single word, usually for comedy

Rhyming couplet: A pair of rhymed lines