

# Aspects of Shakespeare

## 1 Reading: Shakespeare festivals

- a) With a partner, go to the following site and choose one Shakespeare festival each. After you read, present the festival you have chosen to your partner.



[Shakespeare festivals](#)

## 2 Writing: Shakespeare biography

- a) Go to the sites below and do at least two of the quizzes. Take notes of aspects of Shakespeare's life which were unfamiliar to you.



[A Shakespeare biography quiz \(1\)](#)



[A Shakespeare biography quiz \(2\)](#)



[More Shakespeare quizzes](#)

- b) Imagine you were a yellow-press journalist and you had to research an article about the star of the day, William Shakespeare. The following sites can help you to find additional information.



[An introduction to Shakespeare's life and times](#)



[William Shakespeare and the internet](#)



[Royal Shakespeare Company](#)



[Folger Shakespeare Library](#)

- c) In order to find out how such an article can be written go to the following website and read some of the articles there. Take notes of words and phrases which might be suitable for your text about Shakespeare.



[Hello Magazine](#)

- d) Write the **article** for a yellow-press magazine about the young writer/actor/theatre owner William Shakespeare. In your article, you should:

- describe one issue/aspect/detail
- analyse its importance
- add some speculation about young Mr Shakespeare's future

Write an **article** of about **250 words**. Give your article a **title**.

## 3 Listening/Speaking: RSC interviews

- a) Go to the following site and listen to the interviews with the cast or production team of the Royal Shakespeare Company.



[Interviews with members of the Royal Shakespeare Company](#)

- b) Use the texts of these interviews and make a list of expressions which can be used to discuss matters related to the theatre and to theatrical productions.

- c) Choose one interesting aspect of these interviews and present it in class. Use the words from your glossary.



# Shakespeare's language

## 1 Internet research/Speaking: Aspects of Shakespeare's language

- a) With a partner visit the following site and choose at least two texts about Shakespeare and his language. Make sure you and your partner take different sites. Then read the texts and take notes of the most striking details.



[The language of Shakespeare](#)

- b) Now present your findings to each other and discuss them. Keep in mind, however, that both partners are responsible for the discussion. Help each other along by asking intelligent questions.

## 2 Reading: Romeo and Juliet

- a) Go to the following site and read this scene both in Shakespeare's language and in modern English.



[Romeo and Juliet, Act III, Scene v](#)

- b) Comment on the scene and the language used by Shakespeare. The following questions may help you:
- What is the scene about?
  - What makes it difficult to understand Shakespeare's language?

- c) Now watch this video of the same scene.



[Video: Romeo and Juliet, Act III, Scene v](#)

- d) Using the internet, read a summary of the whole play.

## 3 Writing/Speaking: Shakespeare translations

- a) Read the following article about a project to put Shakespeare's plays on stage in 38 different languages.



[Speak the speech ... Shakespeare's plays to be performed in 38 languages](#)

- b) Read the comments on this page and take notes of the various points of argument.

- c) Write a **letter to the editor** of The Guardian in which you comment on this project and on the views put forward by readers of the webpage. In your letter, you should:

- analyse what the problem is
- explain what the main points of argument are
- comment on the problem from your point of view as a foreigner

Write about **250 words**.

- d) Exchange your letter with a partner, read each other's texts and discuss the issue.

## 4 Listening: The sound of Shakespeare's poetry

Listen to two video versions of Shakespeare's Sonnet XVIII.



[William Shakespeare: Sonnet XVIII](#)



[Modern version of Shakespeare's Sonnet XVIII](#)