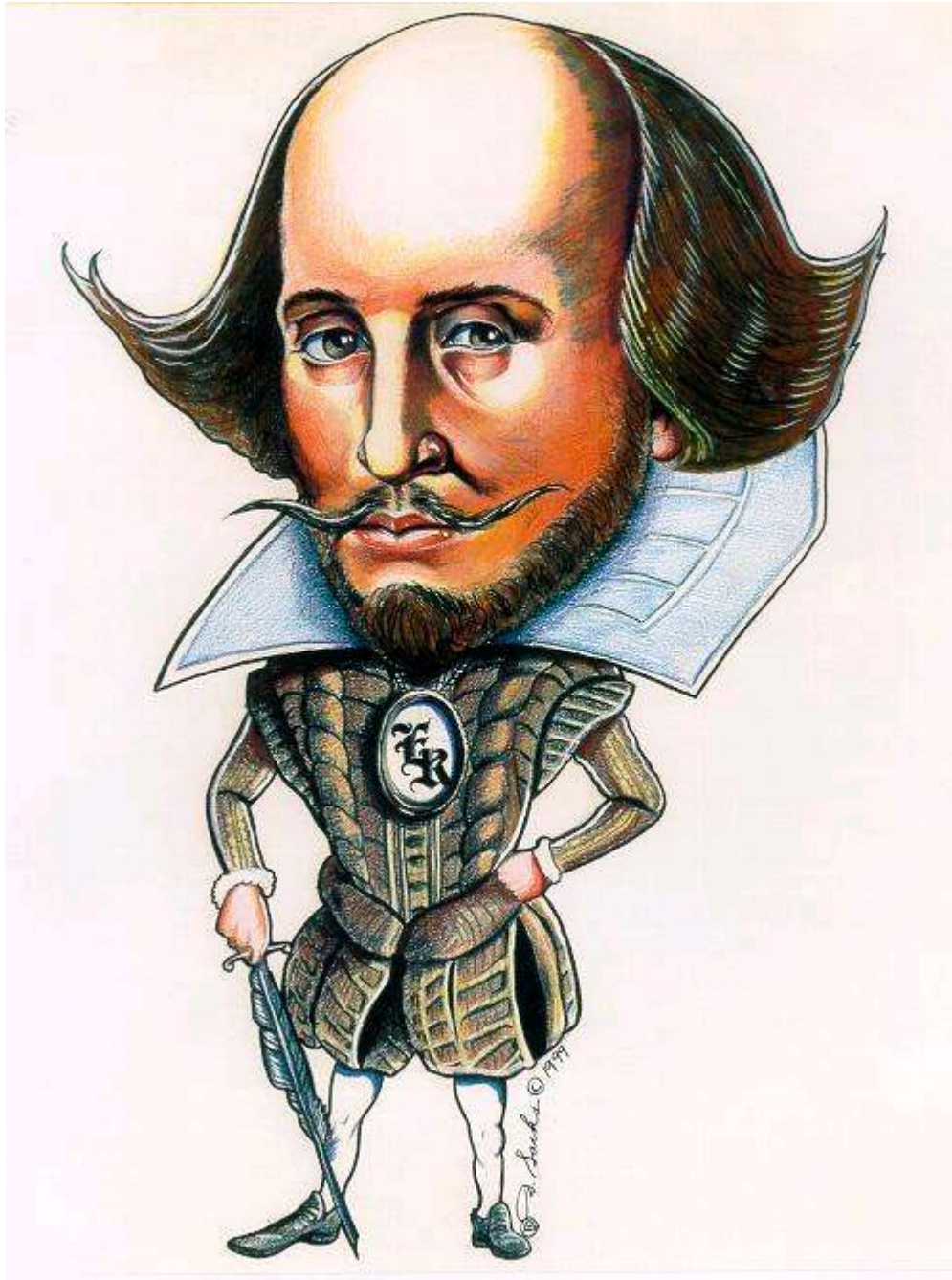


CATAPULT THEATRE COMPANY



presents
**SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE
(ROMEO AND JULIET)**

WORKPACK LEVEL 1

Teachers' note: This didactic material consists of pre-show activities designed to help teachers prepare the students for the experience of watching a piece of theatre in a foreign language.

Due to Catapult's interactive style and use of audience participation, certain details contained in this show will change over the course of the performance. The characters and plot will remain unaffected.

1. THE STORY

In order to retain the element of surprise for the students' benefit and enjoyment the synopsis is incomplete. We suggest that students read the synopsis to get a general idea of the plot.

The Globe Theatre is full of people. They are very happy because a new show is going to start. The famous William Shakespeare writes lots of plays and the new one is called Romeo and Juliet, a love story.

The Puritans arrive. They don't like the theatre. They think it is very bad. They close the theatre.

William Shakespeare is very sad. He has got no money. He is going to kill himself.

The cleaner Wendy arrives. She stops Shakespeare. She has a good idea.

She says to go to see the queen and show her a play.

Shakespeare thinks it is a bad idea.

Can Wendy help Shakespeare open the theatre?

Can you help Shakespeare open the theatre?



About 1563 [AD](#), some people in England decided that they wanted to follow a way of life that they thought would be more what God wanted. They called themselves "the godly", but other people called them "Puritans." If they lived this way, Puritan people thought it would help them get into Heaven. Mainly these people wanted to live quiet, simple lives, spending a lot of their time praying, reading the Bible (which had just been translated into English), and listening to sermons. Puritans wore plain clothes and lived in plain houses. They went to church a lot (all day on Sundays and often on other days too). They thought that God wanted them to work very hard and be very serious. Puritans did not have parties. They did not listen to music, or dance. They did not celebrate holidays, not even Christmas or Easter. They did not like the theatre. They wanted to close them.

True or False

1. The Puritans liked dancing on Sundays.
2. The Puritans went to church a lot.
3. The Puritans made very big birthday cakes.
4. The Puritans were very lazy and never did their homework.
5. The Puritans wanted to close the theatre.

We suggest that students study the following:

What's your name?

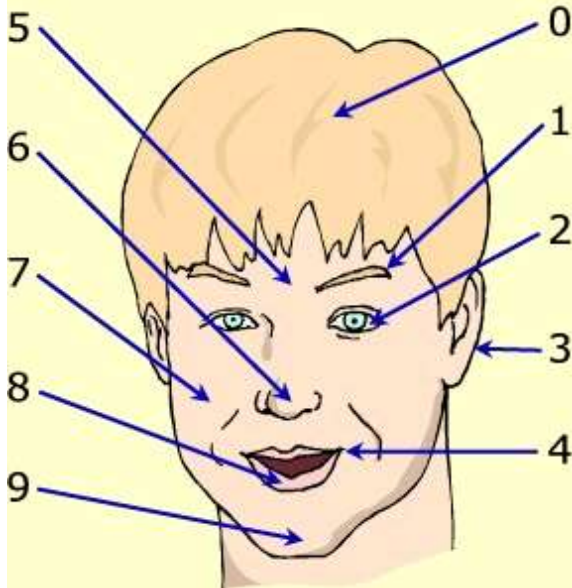
How old are you?

Have you seen...?
Have you been to...?
How are you?
Do you like...?
Where is he/she?
Will you...?
Can you see me?
Can you hear me?
Can you smell me?

Vocabulary

Verbs: Fight, Dance, Die, Cry, Laugh, Play (an instrument), Read (a poem), Bow, Marry, Faint, Rehearse, Kill, Laugh, Jump, Stab.

Nouns: Sword, Handkerchief, Cloak, Wig, Poison, Feather.



0. Hair
1. Eyebrow
2. Eye
3. Ear
4. Mouth
5. Forehead
6. Nose
7. Cheek
8. Lips
9. Chin

Here is a very simple summary of Romeo and Juliet to read with your class.



Romeo and Juliet

Once upon a time there were two families fighting, the Capulets and the Montagues. One day Romeo (a Montague) saw Juliet (a Capulet). Soon they married secretly, even though Juliet's dad wanted her to marry Paris.

Juliet took a drug to look dead because she did not want to marry Paris. But Romeo did not know that she only looked dead, but she wasn't, so he stabbed himself because he wanted to be with Juliet in Heaven. Then when Juliet woke up and saw he was dead, she stabbed herself and she died.

The End

Here is a much more detailed summary if you think the level of your class is higher.

This story begins in Verona , a city in Italy , where the tranquil peace had been broken once again by a feud of old . In fact , this fight was so ancient , that no one could remember how it started !

The two families , the Montagues and the Capulets , hated each other and would literally fight to the death with the other family !

The Prince of Verona was quite unhappy about the regular squabbles in the streets , so he decided to end their fighting by announcing a death penalty for the man who was to be seen fighting or who had killed another man .

One young boy, Romeo , of the Montague family had not fought that day . For his beloved Rosaline had dumped him , and nothing could cheer him , even his dear friends Mercutio and Benvolio .

So help thier friend cheer up a bit , they decided to sneak into a big party the Capulets were holding . But Romeo remained sad until he saw a beautiful girl looking at him . It was instant love , but there was one problem . Juliet , the beautiful girl was a Capulet , and Romeo was a Montague . This meant that instead of loving each other , they were supposed

to hate each other's guts !

That night , Romeo and Juliet made plans to marry at the Friar's monastery , which was just out of town .

So in a few short days , Romeo and Juliet had gone from not knowing each other at all to a secretly married couple .

Of course , no one besides the Friar , Juliet's nurse and the couple themselves knew about this marriage . Because Romeo and Juliet were supposed to hate each other , they did not tell their parents of this .

Juliet was told that she had to marry another man called Count Paris . In those days , girls did whatever their father said , so in order to escape this fate , Juliet went to the Friar and got a potion to make her seem to be dead . Then the Friar would go to Romeo and tell him that Juliet was alive and waiting for him in her tomb .

Unfortunately , the Friar could not reach Romeo in time , and the news of Juliet's death reached him (Romeo) instead .

Poor Romeo , thinking his Juliet dead , went to an apothecary and got a bottle of poison . Then he hurried to the Capulet tomb , so that he could die by his beloved's side .

Minutes later , Juliet awoke , seeing her Romeo dead beside her ! Juliet took the dagger and stabbed herself , ending her life before she had yet turned 15 .

Much too late , the parents of these unfortunate lovers came into the Capulet tomb , and wept to see their children dead . The families had learned their lesson , and statues of the lovers were put up , and the Capulets & Montagues became friends after years of feuding.

The End

The Montagues have hated the Capulets for so long that they don't even remember why they hate each other. These are some reasons that we thought of.

Maybe they...

They stole something from the other family.

They killed someone by mistake from the other family.

The Montagues support Real Madrid.

They fought over a piece of land.

Those were some of the things that we thought of now try to think of some more!



The Globe Theatre was an early English Theatre in London. Most of Shakespeare's plays were first presented at the Globe. The brothers Cuthbert and Richard Burbage constructed the theatre in 1599 from the wood of London's first playhouse, called The Theatre. They erected the Globe in the area known as the Bankside on the south side of the River Thames in the suburb of Southwark.

Little is known about the Globe's design except what can be learned from maps and evidence from the plays presented there. The globe was round or hexagonal on the outside and round on the inside. It may have held as many as 3,000 spectators.

1. Where was The Globe Theatre?
2. When was the theatre built?
3. What is the name of the river in London?
4. How many spectators could watch a play?
5. What shape was The Globe Theatre?

Here is a list of some ideas you can do with your class.

Make posters for The Globe advertising upcoming plays.

Draw characters in scenes and give them thought bubbles telling what they are thinking.

Design costumes for different characters.

Write letters to characters as other characters.

AFTER THE PLAY

We hope students and teachers enjoy the show. We would be grateful for any feedback or suggestions. We look forward to entertaining you again in the future. Please contact us at the address below.

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