Writing Project

Mr William Shakespeare's Plays

presented by Marcia Williams



POETRY WRITING

Shakespeare is often described as the greatest English poet the world has ever known. His plays were mainly written in verse and he also wrote 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems and a few other minor poems. He certainly had a way with words! Shakespeare's writing didn't always follow the rules and he loved to use language creatively.

Types of poetry

There are lots of ways to write a poem and some of them have quite specific rules, although some of them don't have any rules at all!

In this pack we're going to look at two different ways to write a poem and give you some ideas for things to write about that are linked to the book *Mr William Shakespeare's Plays*. There are lots of characters, events and settings to explore in Shakespeare's plays. What will you pick?

IDEAS BANK

You can add your own ideas here too.

CHARACTERS	SETTINGS	EVENTS
Macbeth	Forest of Arden	Storm
Caliban	Magical isle	Shipwreck
Prospero	Verona	Masked ball
Juliet	Birnam Woods	Battle
Hamlet		Casting a spell
Puck		
Titania		

Copyright © 1998 Marcia Williams. From *Mr William Shakespeare's Plays* written & illustrated by Marcia Williams.
Reproduced by permission of Walker Books Ltd, London, SE11 5HJ www.walker.co.uk

Writing Project

Mr William Shakespeare's Plays

presented by Marcia Williams

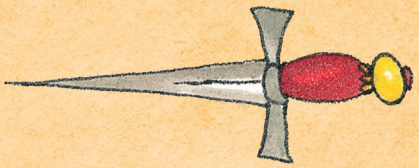
Haiku

A Haiku is a traditional Japanese poetic structure which has three lines:

- Line 1 has 5 syllables
- Line 2 has 7 syllables
- Line 3 has 5 syllables

You can use Haikus to describe any part of a story in a short form. Here is an example of a Haiku based on *Macbeth*:

A dagger for death
The old King Duncan is slain
Servants found guilty!



Write your own Haiku

First, decide on the subject or theme of your poem. Haikus are traditionally based on nature, but they don't have to be.

Next, write down lots of words that are linked to your subject. Here's some ideas:

Magical isle

starfish
waves
magic
cave
tempest
noises
shore
Prospero
sea
twangling
Caliban
birds
trees

Now try and fit your words into the Haiku pattern of 5-7-5 syllables. Don't worry, it might take time to do this and you might change your mind about the words lots of times.

Here's an example:

Magical isle

Waves crash on the shore
Twangling noises in the trees
A tempest raging!



Copyright © 1998 Marcia Williams. From *Mr William Shakespeare's Plays* written & illustrated by Marcia Williams.
Reproduced by permission of Walker Books Ltd, London, SE11 5HJ www.walker.co.uk

Writing Project

Mr William Shakespeare's Plays

presented by Marcia Williams

Cinquain

The Cinquain has five lines with a fixed syllable pattern. You could use this form of poetry to describe events, emotions or thoughts of key characters. Here is the pattern:

Line 1: 2 syllables
Line 2: 4 syllables
Line 3: 6 syllables
Line 4: 8 syllables
Line 5: 2 syllables



Here is an example of a Cinquain based on *Macbeth*:

A ghost
That was Banquo
Haunts Macbeth at the feast
That gory vision drives him mad –
Justice!

Write your own Cinquain

- Choose an event or character from one of the plays in the *Mr William Shakespeare's Plays* book and start by writing down all the words you can think of that relate to this event or character.
- Which words go together to describe or explore your chosen event or character?
- Follow the pattern of syllables for each line and start creating your Cinquain.
- You could also choose to write a 'Didactic Cinquain', which is a simple type of Cinquain that counts words and not syllables. The pattern for this goes:



Line 1: 1 word
Line 2: 2 words
Line 3: 3 words
Line 4: 4 words
Line 5: 1 word

Here is an example of a Didactic Cinquain based on *The Tempest*:

Prospero
Clever, magical
Cunning, plotting, planning,
Remembering life in Milan
Revenge!

Copyright © 1998 Marcia Williams. From *Mr William Shakespeare's Plays* written & illustrated by Marcia Williams.
Reproduced by permission of Walker Books Ltd, London, SE11 5HJ www.walker.co.uk