



# SHAKESPEARE WEEK

Celebrate in Libraries

## Chatterbooks Activity Pack *Shakespeare Week 2016*



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

**CHATTER  
BOOKS**

**THE  
READING  
AGENCY**



## Shakespeare Week 14 – 20 March 2016

### About this pack

Organised by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, **Shakespeare Week** is a national annual celebration giving primary school children a great first encounter with Shakespeare. In 2016 Shakespeare Week will be marking 400 years of Shakespeare's creative legacy with thousands of schools, families and organisations.

[www.shakespeareweek.org.uk](http://www.shakespeareweek.org.uk)

This Chatterbooks activity pack for **Shakespeare Week 2016** contains details of books for young people about Shakespeare, and retellings of his plays, plus ideas for discussion and activities in your Chatterbooks reading group, and suggestions for more reading.

Organisations supporting the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust for Shakespeare Week in libraries are the Association of Senior Children's and Education Librarians (ASCEL), the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Services (CILIP), The Society of Chief Librarians (SCL), and The Reading Agency.

**Chatterbooks** is a reading group programme for children aged 4 to 14 years. It is coordinated by The Reading Agency and its patron is author Dame Jacqueline Wilson. Chatterbooks groups run in libraries and schools, supporting and inspiring children's literacy development by encouraging them to have a really good time reading and talking about books. More resources from [chatterbooks.org.uk](http://chatterbooks.org.uk).

**The Reading Agency** is an independent charity working to inspire more people to read more through programmes for adults, young people and Children – including the Summer Reading Challenge, and Chatterbooks.

**Children's Reading Partners** is a national partnership of children's publishers and libraries working together to bring reading promotions and author events to as many children and young people as possible.

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## William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare was an English poet and playwright, who is often described as the greatest writer in the English language. His surviving works, including some collaborations, consist of 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and several other poems.

His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright.

Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire and was baptised on 26 April 1564. Thought to have been educated at the local grammar school, he married Anne Hathaway, with whom he went on to have three children, at the age of eighteen, before moving to London to work in the theatre.

Two poems, *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece* were published in 1593 and 1594 and records of his plays begin to appear in 1594 for *Richard III* and the three parts of *Henry VI*. Shakespeare's tragic period lasted from around 1600 to 1608, during which period he wrote plays including *Hamlet* and *Othello*. The first editions of the sonnets were published in 1609 but evidence suggests that Shakespeare had been writing them for years for a private readership.

Shakespeare spent the last five years of his life in Stratford, by now a wealthy man of property. He died on 23 April 1616 and was buried in Holy Trinity Church in Stratford.

## Shakespeare Week in libraries – Resources

Shakespeare Week website – <http://shakespeareweek.org.uk>

With a special libraries page for resources <http://shakespeareweek.org.uk/libraries/>

- ‘*Unwillingly to School*’ – a film about Shakespeare as a boy
- Activity sheets
- Booklist
- For even more ideas have a look too at our [2015 Chatterbooks Shakespeare activity pack](#)

## Ideas for your Chatterbooks sessions

Get together a collection of books to inspire these activities and discussion; there are all the reading ideas in this pack, plus of course more from your library.

Talk about Shakespeare – find out what your group already knows about him and his plays. Fill in on some of the facts about him (have a go at the fun quiz below) and have a look at the film [Unwillingly to School](#) about Shakespeare as a boy, which was produced specially for Shakespeare Week 2015.

### WARM UPS

#### Scrambled! Shakespeare plays and characters

Here are the names of some Shakespeare characters and plays which have been all scrambled up – can you unscramble them?

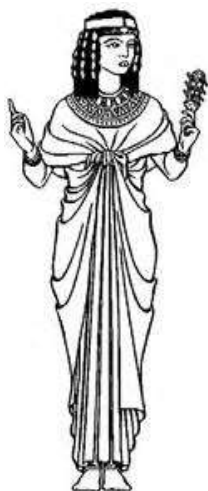
**MOORE TUJILE MEBCHAT KRIANGLE TOTOMB SWANTAILTREE**

**TEMPTSHEET LEAPACTOR JUSAIRCLAUSE OILYAUKITES THEMAL**

(If you need some help, here are the names you're looking for!

**THE TEMPEST MACBETH HAMLET KING LEAR BOTTOM ROMEO JULIET  
A WINTERS TALE JULIUS CAESAR AS YOU LIKE IT CLEOPATRA**

Talk about some of these plays and characters. Who knows any of them?  
Have you seen any of the plays?



## Shakespeare Quiz

Have a go together at this quiz – for each question choose a, b, or c for the right answer. (Answers are at the end of the pack.)

Talk together about the answers and find out more about Shakespeare and his world.

1. Who was the queen of England for most of Shakespeare's life?

- a. Anne
- b. Elizabeth I
- c. Victoria

2. Where was Shakespeare born?

- a. Stony Stratford
- b. Bradford-on-Avon
- c. Stratford –upon-Avon

3. What was Shakespeare's father?

- a. A farmer
- b. A glove-maker
- c. An inn keeper

4. Who was Shakespeare's wife?

- a. Anne Hathaway
- b. Anne Boleyn
- c. Kate Greenaway

5. What did Shakespeare leave to his wife in his will?

- a. His money
- b. His property
- c. His second-best bed

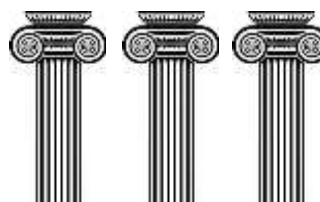
6. What was the name of the theatre in London where many of Shakespeare's plays were performed?

- a. The Apollo
- b. The Playhouse
- c. The Globe

7. How much did people pay to stand in the theatre yard to watch the plays?

- a. One penny
- b. A guinea
- c. Half a crown

8. What lighting was used for staging the plays?
- Candlelight
  - Limelight
  - Daylight
9. What was the area under the stage called, from which emerged the actors playing ghosts and devils?
- The storage area
  - Hell
  - The area under the stage...
10. Why was Shakespeare's theatre closed from 1592-4?
- It was being renovated
  - There was plague in London
  - The theatre company went bankrupt
11. Which of Shakespeare's plays is called 'the Scottish play'?
- Macbeth
  - Hamlet
  - The Tempest
12. Who are the ill-fated young lovers in a Shakespeare play about a family feud?
- Hansel and Gretel
  - Romeo and Juliet
  - Lancelot and Guinevere
13. Which of Shakespeare's plays is about fairies and lovers and a night of misunderstandings?
- A Winter's Tale
  - Much Ado About Nothing
  - A Midsummer Night's Dream
14. Which of these plays by Shakespeare is set in ancient Rome?
- Hamlet
  - Julius Caesar
  - Henry the Fifth




### Shakespeare said it!

Shakespeare used 17,677 words in his plays – and he invented at least 1,700 of them, many of which, such as ‘eyeball’, ‘swagger’ and ‘balderdash’, we still use today.

There are also lots of common phrases and sayings which we use, that are all found in Shakespeare’s plays.

Have a look at this list and talk about the meaning of these phrases:

Phrase from Shakespeare	Meaning              
Be fire with fire	
Green-eyed monster	
A foregone conclusion	
All that glisters is not gold	
At one fell swoop	
In the twinkling of an eye	
Love is blind	
Send him packing	
I will wear my heart upon my sleeve	
Wild-geese chase	

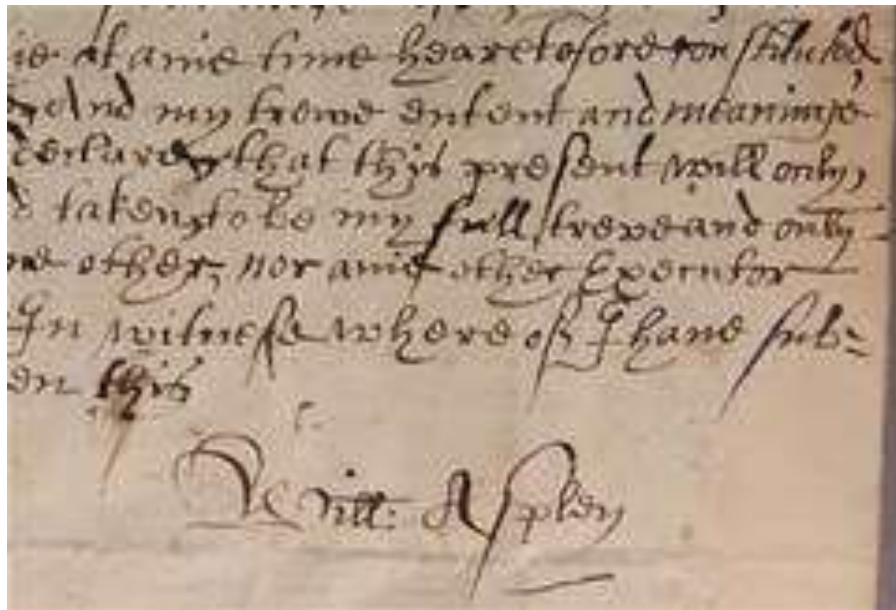
## ACTIVITY IDEAS

### Shakespeare's handwriting

Here is an example of Shakespeare's signature – there are several different ones!

William Shakespeare

We know that his writing may have looked like this – not very easy to read today!



Try writing a piece of a Shakespeare play or verse making your writing look a bit like that in the signature above!

Choose your favourite excerpt, or have a go with these lines below from Shakespeare's play *The Tempest*:

*Merrily, merrily  
Shall I live now  
Under the blossom that  
Hangs on the bough.*

Here's a page for your writing. You could use an ordinary pen – or maybe try with a quill pen and ink – see <http://www.wikihow.com/Write-With-a-Feather-Quill>



## Flowers in Shakespeare

As it says in the *Eyewitness Shakespeare* book featured further on in this pack, *William Shakespeare grew up in the heart of the countryside. He knew the farmers' fields around Stratford, the meadows where wild flowers grew, and the Forest of Arden to the north. As an adult, writing plays in London, Shakespeare drew on his memories of the countryside.*

Here are some excerpts from Shakespeare's plays where he writes about different flowers – there's space for you to draw the flowers next to Shakespeare's words. Talk together about what he is saying on these lines, and look up any flowers that you don't know.

### *Flowers and herbs in Shakespeare*

Daffodils,  
That come before the swallow dares, and take  
The winds of March with beauty...  
...pale primroses  
...bold oxlips  
...lilies of all kinds.

*The Winter's Tale*

Hot lavender, mints, savory, marjoram,  
The marigold, that goes to bed wi'th' sun,  
And with him rises, weeping.

*The Winter's Tale*

I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,  
Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows,  
Quite overcanopied with luscious woodbine,  
With sweet musk roses, and with eglantine.

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*

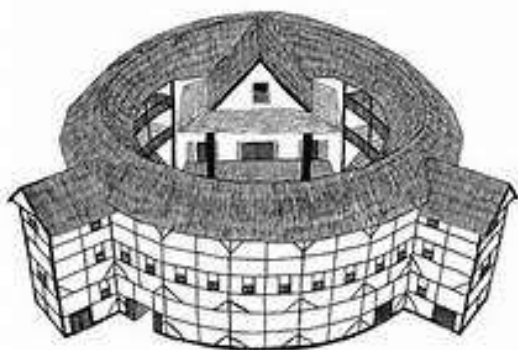
## London theatres in Shakespeare's day

Find out about theatres in London in Shakespeare's day, especially the Globe Theatre where many of his plays were performed.

There were other theatres called the Rose, the Curtain, and the Fortune.

You'll find lots of information in the non-fiction books featured below in this pack, and also in Marcia Williams' books *Bravo Mr William Shakespeare* and *Mr William Shakespeare's Plays*. (See also the role play activity linked to these books.)

There are also descriptions in the fiction titles on this pack, *Road to London* (Mitchelhill) and *The Boy and the Globe* (Bradman) – have a look at this excerpt from *The Boy and the Globe*, which is actually describing the Rose theatre:



*...as with The Globe, The Rose's top gallery was roofed with thatch, but the main circular section of the building was open to the sky. Soft morning light poured down from above, revealing the interior in all its glory. The galleries had been freshly painted, the space in front of the stage had been swept and cleaned, and the stage itself had been completely re-built. The pillars on either side of the stage were covered in patterns of gold and red, and at the rear was a brightly coloured back-cloth showing a street scene.*

*In front of it was a large wooden chest, the kind that was used to store costumes at The Globe.*

Imagine you have just been to the Globe theatre to see a Shakespeare play – perhaps *Romeo and Juliet* or *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – or the Scottish play *Macbeth*. You paid one penny entrance fee to stand in the yard in the centre of the theatre to watch the play – it was a sunny afternoon so the play was well lit, and there were hundreds of people standing with you so it was rather crowded and noisy, especially when one of the actors forgot his lines!

Write a letter to a friend, or a diary entry, describing your afternoon at the play.

Or imagine you were one of the actors in the play – perhaps a boy playing a female character in the play! Here's another excerpt from *The Boy and the Globe*:

*Will led Toby up onto the stage and through one of the curtained doors into the space behind it, a large room packed with the players who had just performed Macbeth. It was strange for Toby to see them changing out of their costumes now, especially the witches, who turned out to have been played by boys not much older than him. Up close he could see how they'd painted their faces to make their cheeks look sunken and wizened, and how the long black wigs they wore made them look like women.*

## Your Shakespeare Notebook

Make a special notebook for the things that you find out about Shakespeare and his plays, and about theatres in Shakespeare's time.

In your notebook you could write your favourite words and excerpts from Shakespeare; and you could draw and write about your favourite characters.

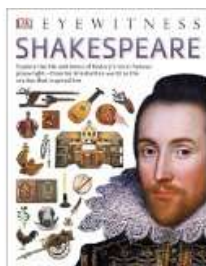
Here are some tips on making a notebook: <http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Notebook> Even more simple is to take a few sheets of A4 paper, fold them in half, and stitch or staple down the centre fold to fasten the pieces together.

And here is some clip art you might like to use for your cover:



## The books...

### Non-fiction about Shakespeare



#### ***Eyewitness Shakespeare* Peter Crisp DK 978-0241187579**

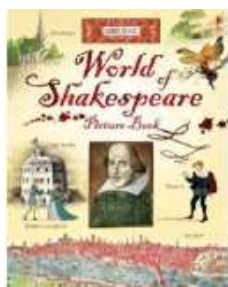
An engaging non-fiction *Eyewitness* guide to William Shakespeare. Did you know that special effects were used in Shakespeare's plays? That devils and ghosts came up through trapdoors in the stage? Find out how and discover the fascinating life and times of one of the world's greatest playwrights.

Follow Shakespeare from his birth in the small town of Stratford-upon-Avon

to theatre life in 16th century London. *Eyewitness* reference books are now more interactive and colourful, with new infographics, statistics, facts and timelines, plus a giant pull-out wall chart.

**Peter Crisp** writes children's books on history. His works include *Ancient Egypt Revealed* and *Ancient Rome Revealed*. He is also an artist.

***A country childhood:*** *William Shakespeare grew up in the heart of the countryside. He knew the farmers' fields around Stratford, the meadows where wild flowers grew, and the Forest of Arden to the north. As an adult, writing plays in London, Shakespeare drew on his memories of the countryside. His plays are full of accurate descriptions of birds, flowers, trees, wild animals, clouds, and the changing seasons.*

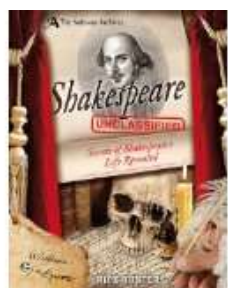


#### ***The Usborne World of Shakespeare* Rosie Dickins and Galia Bernstein Usborne 978-1409599845**

An illustrated guide to the life and times of William Shakespeare. Readers can discover his famous plays, see where he lived and worked and find out why he is one of the world's greatest writers. This book has an index and contents pages for easy study, and Usborne Quicklinks to specially selected websites with video clips from plays and more information.

**Rosie Dickins** lives in London, where she now works for Usborne Publishing. She is the author of over forty fiction and non-fiction children's books, including award-winning art books.

**Galia Bernstein** is a full time freelance illustrator (part time textile designer and an amateur ceramics artist) and lives in Brooklyn, NY.



#### ***Shakespeare Unclassified* R Nick Hunter A & C Black 978-1472915405**

Welcome to the world of William Shakespeare. See what influenced his work, whether he really did write the famous works that we associate with his name, and be prepared to be taken on a journey behind the scenes. Amazing artifacts and original documents provided by the National Archives help readers build a real account of the man behind the name.

Nick Hunter has written more than 50 books for young people. He has a degree in modern history and specializes in writing about history and social studies. Before becoming an author, Nick worked in children's publishing for many years. He lives in Oxford, UK with his wife and two sons.

## Shakespeare's plays



### **Romeo and Juliet** Gareth Hinds Walker Books 978-076366807

She's a Capulet. He's a Montague. But when Romeo and Juliet first meet, they don't know they're from rival families - and when they find out, they don't care. Their love is honest and raw and all-consuming. But it's also dangerous. How much will they have to sacrifice before they can be together? In a masterful adaptation faithful to Shakespeare's original text, Gareth Hinds transports readers to the sun-washed streets and market squares of Shakespeare's Verona, vividly bringing the classic play to life in graphic novel format.

**Gareth Hinds** is the acclaimed creator of the graphic novels *The Odyssey*, *Beowulf*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *King Lear*. About *Romeo and Juliet*, he says, "The gold standard for romantic tragedy, this play features some of the most brilliant rhymed verse ever written. It was a joy to work with the text and spend time with these characters. And I had a great time drawing the sword-fights!" He lives in New York.



**Compare this graphic novel version of *Romeo and Juliet* with the version below by Michael Rosen and Jane Ray. Talk about which you prefer, and why.**



### **Romeo and Juliet** Michael Rosen and Jane Ray Walker Books 978-1844285204

This most famous of love stories is uniquely presented in picture book form for children. The tale is told scene by scene in a simple lively style, with dialogue reproducing Shakespeare's own words so that the most celebrated passages of the play are retained in their original form

**Michael Rosen** is one of the most popular contemporary poets and authors of books for children. His titles include *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* which was the winner of the Smarties Book Prize, *Michael Rosen's Sad Book* and *Totally Wonderful Miss Plumberry*. The presenter of "Word of Mouth" on BBC Radio 4, he received the Eleanor Farjeon Award for services to children's literature in 1997. He was Children's Laureate from June 2007 to June 2009 and has been a TV presenter and a political columnist.

**Jane Ray's** first full colour picture book was *A Balloon for Grandad* by Nigel Gray. Since then she has illustrated numerous children's books, including *Fairy Tales* by Berlie Doherty, *The King of Capri* by Jeanette Winterson, and *Moonbird* by Joyce Dunbar. She also writes her own material including a retelling of 'Snow White' in a magnificent 'pop-up' version

*Juliet had no idea that Romeo was down there in the orchard. O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo? She said aloud. She could not forget the horrible fact that Romeo was a Montague and she a Capulet, and she wished that one of them could give up their family.*

## Retellings of Shakespeare's plays, and a sticker book



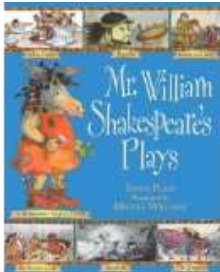
### **Bravo Mr William Shakespeare Marcia Williams Walker 978-1406323351**

The Globe Theatre is delighted to announce a new season of Mr. William Shakespeare's plays! Prithee take your place for a performance of seven of the Bard's finest tales. See *As You Like It*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Richard III*, *Twelfth Night*, *King Lear*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Much Ado About Nothing* – each brilliantly presented in dramatic comic-strip form, including

Mr Shakespeare's own dialogue and the riotous remarks of the audience. Bravo!

**Marcia Williams** is a successful author/illustrator and, with her distinctive cartoon-strip style, has now illustrated and retold many literary classics for children, including *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, *Greek Myths*, *Archie's War* and *My Secret War Diary* by Flossie Albright, a Second World War journal. She lives in Barnes, London

*Duke Orsino was so amazed he gave up his wasted love for Olivia and offered his heart to Viola, the woman who had been his page. Antonio was pardoned and got his purse back. And Olivia and Sebastian were happily reunited. As Olivia's jester, Feste, began to sing a song of celebration, everyone, except the yellow-stockinged Malvolio, linked arms in love and friendship. The terrible shipwreck on Illyria's shores had turned out to be a stroke of great good fortune.*



### **Mr William Shakespeare's Plays Marcia Williams Walker 978-1406323344**

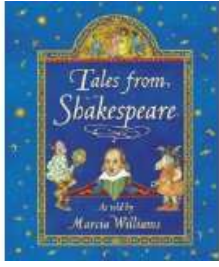
Take your place once more in the Globe Theatre of Shakespeare's day to see seven of his best-loved plays in performance. *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Winter's Tale* and *The Tempest* are all brought vividly to life in Marcia Williams' gloriously accessible comic-strip versions, which include the bard's own dialogue and

the rowdy remarks of the audience.

*Many years ago on a mystical isle, young Miranda and her loving father, Prospero, watched as a ship foundered in a fierce and terrible tempest. Prospero had been preparing for this moment for years, developing his magic powers from a rare book until he could control the elements. Miranda suspected that her father had caused the storm, but has no idea why such a gentle man should wish to harm anyone. So Prospero revealed how he and his daughter had been cast away on the island, twelve years before.*

**These two books by Marcia Williams have three strands of dialogue: a narrative description of the play; actual speech by Shakespeare; and the remarks and calls from the audience.**

**Get your group to imagine being in the audience – the groundlings. Imagine the crowd, the noise, the smells; booing and heckling, throwing apples at the stage, maybe pickpockets sneaking up on people enthralled by the play. Choose a play, and use the words Marcia Williams gives to the audience – then practise and role play being a rowdy audience at the Globe.**



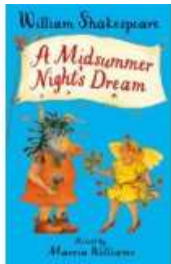
***Tales From Shakespeare* Marcia Williams Walker  
978-1406361025**

Much-loved author/illustrator Marcia Williams retells fourteen of Shakespeare's most famous plays, with full-colour illustrations throughout. From the heartbreaking tragedy of *Romeo and Juliet* to Puck's hilarious escapades in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Marcia brings Shakespeare's stories vividly to life.

This is a witty, accessible introduction to Shakespeare's plays.

*Many years ago off the shores of a small, mystical isle, a ship struggled in the eye of a terrible tempest. The thunder roared, the lightning cracked, and the waves raised the ship up towards the stormy clouds. There it seemed to rest for a moment, only to be dashed down into the brink by the raging sea. No ship could survive such a battering. No sailor could survive in such waters.*

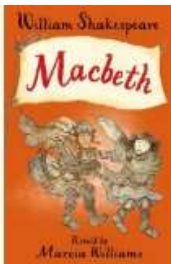
**These tellings are also available as individual books, divided into chapters and with black and white line drawings:**



***A Midsummer Night's Dream* William Shakespeare, retold  
by Marcia Williams Walker 978-1406362725**

Marcia Williams retells one of Shakespeare's most loved plays in this adaptation for younger children. With witty illustrations, accessible language and dialogue from the original manuscript, this is the perfect introduction to Shakespeare for those encountering his work for the first time. Whether you're about to watch, study or perform *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, or are

just in need of a wonderful story, Marcia Williams brings William Shakespeare to life. Discover the magical exploits of the fairies, follow four young lovers as they venture into a forest, and laugh at the mishaps of Bottom and his acting troupe. The course of true love never did run smooth!



***Macbeth* William Shakespeare, retold by Marcia Williams  
Walker 978-1406362794**

This is the perfect introduction to Shakespeare's tragedy *Macbeth* for children, written and illustrated by master storyteller Marcia Williams.

Macbeth seems to have everything - success on the battlefield, a happy marriage, and the respect of the King. But soon he wants even more. When three witches predict that he'll be King one day, he'll go to any lengths to get

it ... even murder. This accessible retelling is faithful to the play and features Shakespeare's own dialogue.



***Romeo and Juliet* William Shakespeare, retold by  
Marcia Williams Walker 978-1406362763**

The perfect introduction to Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* for children, written and illustrated by master storyteller Marcia Williams and featuring Shakespeare's own dialogue. When Romeo falls in love with his enemies' daughter, Juliet, he hopes their love can stop the feuding between their families.

But soon their lives are in danger, and they must risk everything to be together...

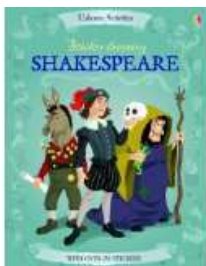


***The Tempest* William Shakespeare, retold by Marcia Williams Walker 978-1406362732**

Marcia Williams retells one of Shakespeare's most famous plays in this adaptation for younger children. With witty illustrations, accessible language and dialogue from the original manuscript, this is the perfect introduction to Shakespeare for those encountering his work for the first time. Whether you're about to watch, study or perform *The Tempest*, or are just in need of a

wonderful story, Marcia Williams brings William Shakespeare to life.

Discover the enchantments of Prospero and his supernatural servant Ariel, follow his daughter Miranda as she falls in love for the first time, and read spellbound as you discover the treachery of his brother. A tale of forgiveness and generosity ... such stuff as dreams are made on!

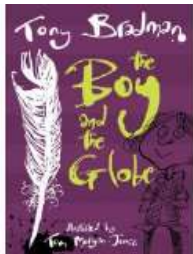


***Sticker Dressing Shakespeare* Rachel Firth and Diego Diaz Usborne 978-1409564270**

This is a brilliant introduction to the most famous characters from Shakespeare's plays and a must-have for all Sticker Dressing/Sticker Dolly Dressing fans. You can dress the actors with the 200+ stickers included, to get them ready for their stage appearances in Shakespeare's greatest plays. It is a fun and accessible way to learn about the Bard.

It is guaranteed to spark further interest in Shakespeare's plays.

## **Fiction about Shakespeare and his plays**



***The Boy and the Globe* Tony Bradman & Tom Morgan-Jones Barrington Stoke 978-1781125038**

Young Toby lives on his wits. An orphan and a street-child, he navigates Elizabethan London like an old hand. Meanwhile the city has lost its charm for Will Shakespeare, the playwright from Stratford. Beset by troubles personal and professional and suffering from writer's block, he has grown to hate the drama business. But when Toby stumbles into the Globe, the boy's energy and

enthusiasm remind Will of the magic that first inspired his love of the theatre, and the two set to work on a new entertainment for Twelfth Night.

**Tony Bradman** is an author with a passion for bringing history to life for young people. He attends all the major literary festivals, reviews for The Guardian and is the Chair of the Siobhan Dowd Trust.

**Tom Morgan-Jones** is an award winning illustrator based in Cambridge, UK. His work is widely and internationally published, from Children's books and magazines to satirical board games.

*But Toby was too busy looking at the stage with its painted pillars and curtained openings, and the galleries full of rich people looking down. Soon he heard strange music, and three players dressed as witches emerged onto the stage. "When shall we three meet again?" one said. "In thunder, lightning or in rain ..."*

*It was a wonderful play, the story of a Scottish king called Macbeth. Toby was terrified by the witches and gripped by the twists and turns of the plot. He was tall enough now to see and hear everything, and he loved the whole experience. Being part of the audience was fun too – he groaned and gasped and yelled with everyone else. He had no idea the play-house could be so much fun.*



***Olivia's Curtain Call* Lyn Gardner Nosy Crow  
978-0857632074**

Olivia and her friends are auditioning for a production of *Romeo and Juliet* in the West End. It makes Olivia realise just how much she wants to be an actress, like her mum was. But her father asks her to perform with him in a high-wire stunt instead. How can she choose between her parents? And love is in the air at the Swan School of Theatre and Dance.

When the curtain falls, will everyone get their fairy tale happy ending?

**Lyn Gardner** lives near Richmond Park. A theatre critic for *The Guardian*, she goes to the theatre five or six nights a week, which should leave no time for writing books at all. But, apart from the *Olivia* books, she has also managed to write two other novels for children: *Into the Woods* and *Out of the Woods*.

*The final words were being spoken.*

*“For never was a story of more woe  
Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.”*

*There was a blackout. As the house lights began to be raised, the audience blinked and looked around at each other dazedly, as if awaking from a long dream. They were different people from the chattering crowd who had entered the theatre....For what seemed like a century there was silence, then the silence exploded as a thousand people rose to their feet and began to applaud.*



***Road to London* Barbara Mitchelhill Andersen 978-  
1849394079**

Thomas is desperate to join 'the players', he'll do anything to watch them perform, even skip school and risk a caning. But when Thomas's rule breaking gets him in trouble with more than just his school master, he has to flee his home and make his way to London. Here he meets his hero, Shakespeare, and his players. But behind the excitement of the theatres is a grimy world of deception, poison and treason. Will Thomas manage to uncover the plot in time? And will he manage to save Shakespeare from a fate worse than death?

**Barbara Mitchelhill** writes books for older children – mysteries, adventures and stories in historical settings. She travels to schools, libraries and book festivals in the UK and in the Caribbean, Malta and Singapore. Her books also include *Billy's Blitz*, and *Twist of Fortune*.

*But first a drum roll sounded and continued until any chatter had died down and you could hear a pin drop. Then Master Shakespeare stepped briskly onto the stage and bowed low.*

*‘I am honoured to present my humble play Much Ado About Nothing to Your Majesty,’ he daid, speaking in a bold voice which must have impressed the queen and her guests. He explained a little bit about the play (which was very complicated and all about love, as usual) and when he had finished he bowed again and stepped aside.*

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	<b>Fiction about Shakespeare &amp; his plays</b>		
Veronica Bennett	<i>Shakespeare's Apprentice (out of print)</i>	Walker	978-1844281480
Caroline Cooney	<i>Enter Three Witches</i>	Scholastic	978-0439711579
Antonia Forest	<i>The Player's Boy (out of print)</i>	Faber	978-0571095162
Celia Rees	<i>The Fool's Girl</i>	Bloomsbury	978-0747597346
Diana Wynne Jones	<i>The Magicians of Caprona (echoes of Romeo &amp; Juliet)</i>	Harper Collins	978-0007267682

## **Answers to the quiz**

1b, 2c, 3b, 4a, 5c, 6c, 7a, 8c, 9b, 10b, 11a, 12b, 13c, 14b