Resources for Reading Comprehension,
Writing, and Spelling

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C142  Upper Grammar Literature Book III
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C120 Tales from Shakespeare

Note: This workbook was developed to use with Charles and Mary Lamb’s book
Tales from Shakespeare. It may be purchased from a number of retailers, including:

Veritas Press at
1-800-922-5082

Logos School Materials
110 Baker Street
Moscow, Idaho  83843
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# The Works of William Shakespeare

(1564-1616)

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Tales from Shakespeare

Introduction

This resource is designed to help students learn about ten Shakespearian plays. The goal is to provide a thorough introduction to these works by having the student read, interact with and memorize the foundational information of each play. First the student will read the adapted text twice, once independently and once out loud in a small group. The second step consists of completing a worksheet and participating in a discussion which addresses each of the following areas: describing characters, summarizing the plot, defining vocabulary and answering comprehension questions. Individual worksheets, a test review, a final exam, answer keys and ideas for integration with writing are all included.

Directions

Intro Day
Spend some time talking to the class about Shakespeare. What are the different types of plays that he wrote? Have the students take notes while you define and distinguish between a comedy and a tragedy illustrating each concept by discussing famous plays, books, or movies that the students are already familiar with.

Day One (approximately 45 min.)
1. Give a short introduction to the play which sketches the main plot but doesn’t give away the solution or conclusion. It is helpful at this time to prick the student’s interest by asking a question that will be answered as he reads or that is related to the theme of the play in an interesting way. For example a teacher might ask, “Does anyone know what a shrew is?” After a definition is given, the attributes of a shrew could be listed on the board and the students would commence reading with the question, “What does this play have to do with taming a shrew?” on their minds.
2. Student reads the play silently.
3. If he finishes early, he will begin to complete the worksheet.

Day Two (approximately one hour)
1. Today the students will read the play again out loud. I break them into groups of two to four students for this activity. They are encouraged to briefly discuss any pertinent questions that come up about the play as they read.
2. Once the group has finished reading, each student is to return to his seat and complete the worksheet individually.
3. Any portion of the worksheet which was not completed in class on days one and two is homework.
Day Three (approximately 15 min.)

1. The teacher leads a discussion; the goal of which is to complete the Plot Summary (class) portion of the worksheet. Once the students have been taught how to summarize a play or book in three short sentences, the teacher can simply ask for suggestions from the class and modify them when needed. The three sentences are to be thought of as the beginning, middle and end of the play. I allow a maximum of four words per sentence. The Plot Summary (class) will be the same for everyone while the Plot Summary (individual) will vary slightly from student to student.

2. Students pass in the worksheet.

3. Teacher briefly discusses the answers to the comprehension questions with the class.

*At this point a new play can be introduced (return to day one) or more time can be spent doing any one of the following activities.

A. Have the students read the original work.
B. Have the students listen to an audio tape of the original work while they follow the script.
C. Show the students a movie of the play or attend a local performance of the play.
D. Once you have covered a few plays, divide the students into groups and have them do a short pantomime of each play while the audience tries to guess which play is being performed.
E. Perform the play or part of the play as a class.

Conclusion

As the students work through each of the ten plays they will need to keep their graded worksheets in a binder. Once all ten plays have been covered, it is time for the final test. A study sheet is included to help prepare for the exam. The Shakespearian Revue board game is a fun way for the students to go over pertinent information that will be on the test. If time allows, it is also beneficial to divide the class into groups and have each group create its own board game from the basic information in each play. Once the games are complete, the groups can switch and play.

Integrating Writing

Cover the first three plays (The Tempest, The Winter’s Tale and A Midsummer Night’s Dream) then complete a Venn Diagram with the class on the similarities and differences between the three. The students are to select three of the similarities and write a five-paragraph essay on the Similarities of three Shakespearian Comedies. This activity can also be done with the three tragedies (Hamlet, Macbeth and Romeo & Juliet). See the answer key at the back for examples of Venn Diagrams.
THE TEMPEST

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

I. Statistics
A. Plot Type: _________________________  (Comedy, Tragedy, History)
B. Time of Plot: _______________________
C. Locale: ____________________________
D. Theme: ________________________________________________________________________

II. Principal Characters: Describe the attributes and roles of the following characters.
A. Prospero:  ______________________________________________________________________
B. Miranda:   ______________________________________________________________________
C. Ferdinand:   _____________________________________________________________________
D. Ariel:  _________________________________________________________________________
E. Caliban:  _______________________________________________________________________
F. King of Naples:   _________________________________________________________________
G. Antonio:   ______________________________________________________________________
H. Gonzalo:   ______________________________________________________________________

III. Plot Summary: Summarize the plot in three three-word sentences (Beginning, Middle, End).
(Individual) A. _____________________________________
B. _____________________________________
C. _____________________________________

(Class) A. _____________________________________
B. _____________________________________
C. _____________________________________

IV. Sketch: Sketch a memorable scene from the play.


V. Vocabulary

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Signet page #</th>
<th>Puffin page #</th>
<th>Guess the meaning from context</th>
<th>Write the dictionary definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>advocate</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>harpy</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>voracious</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>immortal</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>reconciliation</td>
<td>22</td>
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VI. Comprehension Questions: Restate the question, and answer in complete sentences.

A. Why does Prospero test Ferdinand’s constancy? How does he do it?
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

B. Who had imprisoned good spirits in trees?
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

C. How did Prospero gain such power over the winds and waves of the sea?
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

D. What enabled Prospero to release many good spirits from the bodies of large trees?
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
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