



Heart of America Shakespeare Festival

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SONNET SHAKE UP TEACHER GUIDE

Shakespeare in Education

At the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival we present education programs that nurture an early appreciation for the art of theatre and the work of William Shakespeare. We teach Shakespeare through performance in order to enhance understanding of language arts, Renaissance history and theatre performance. Sonnet ShakeUP is a writing workshop offered to prepare students for participation in the Festival's 2013 sonnet contest. Two teaching artists will present a choral arrangement based on one of Shakespeare's sonnets and give an interactive overview of the festival's 2013 play *As You Like It*. The elements of how to write a sonnet will be presented. Teachers will receive all of the preparation materials needed to enter their students in our sonnet competition.

Grades: 4-12

"All the world's a stage, all the men and women merely players" Jacques, *As You like It*

"Can one desire too much of a good thing?" Rosalind, *As You Like It*

Pre-Class Activities

Read a summary of the plot of *As You Like It* and then list the characters. Give students a card with a character on it. This card should have the character's name and some descriptive words about the character (see below). Have each student create a character collage by cutting out images from magazines and gluing them on paper. They may include words they cut out as well. If they desire, students could incorporate their own drawings as well. Once each student has completed his or her collage, create a wall design that illustrates how the characters are intertwined in the plot.

- Rosalind-strong, energetic, brave, disguises herself as a boy called Ganymede
- Celia- Rosalind's cousin- trustworthy, loyal, brave, disguises herself as a poor country girl called Aliena
- Touchstone- clown, loyal, flirtatious, energetic
- Jacques- disillusioned, bitter, lonely
- Orlando-bold, brave, passionate
- Corin-peasant, kind, easygoing
- Silvius-full of love, energetic, not too wise
- Audrey-sweet, silly, enthusiastic
- Phebe (or Phoebe)- disdainful, proud, brash
- Duke Senior- leader, kind, caring, giving
- Duke Frederick- harsh, power hungry, unkind
- Oliver-proud, ambitious, jealous
- Adam-loyal, elderly, wise
- Charles-strong, proud, brave
- Amiens- loyal, jolly, sings

Read some of Shakespeare's sonnets aloud and discuss the structure of a sonnet. Also discuss the content and themes of the sonnets. Here are two famous examples:

SONNET 116

Let me not to the marriage of true minds
Admit impediments. Love is not love
Which alters when it alteration finds,
Or bends with the remover to remove:
O no! it is an ever-fixed mark
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;
It is the star to every wandering bark,
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks
Within his bending sickle's compass come:
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.
If this be error and upon me proved,
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

SONNET 18

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade
Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest;
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou growest:
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this and this gives life to thee.

Post-Class Activities

- Have students list the important themes or ideas in *As You Like It* and discuss the mood of the play.
- Have students list words that they associate with the play.
- Read the students some famous quotes from the play for inspiration.
- Have students find an image that they feel embodies the play. Let them look at this when creating their sonnets.

**WRITE YOUR SONNETS AND HAVE FUN!
SUBMIT ENTRIES BY MARCH 01, 2013**

Online Resources: www.kcshakes.org; artsedge.kennedy-center.org; www.folger.edu

For further questions or activities contact Ashlea Christopher, Director of Education 816-531-7728

All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely
players,
They have their exits and entrances,
And one man in his time plays many
parts,
His acts being seven ages. At first the
infant,
Mewling and puking in the nurse's
arms.
Then, the whining schoolboy with his
satchel
And shining morning face, creeping
like snail
Unwillingly to school. And then the
lover,
Sighing like furnace, with a woeful
ballad
Made to his mistress' eyebrow. Then a
soldier,
Full of strange oaths, and bearded like
the pard,
Jealous in honour, sudden, and quick
in quarrel,
Seeking the bubble reputation
Even in the cannon's mouth. And then
the justice
In fair round belly, with good capon
lin'd,
With eyes severe, and beard of formal
cut,
Full of wise saws, and modern
instances,
And so he plays his part. The sixth age
shifts
Into the lean and slipper'd pantaloons,
With spectacles on nose, and pouch
on side,
His youthful hose well sav'd, a world
too wide,
For his shrunk shank, and his big
manly voice,
Turning again towards childish treble,
pipes
And whistles in his sound. Last scene
of all,
That ends this strange eventful
history,
Is second childishness and mere
oblivion,
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans
everything.
Jacques, *As You Like It*