Year 8 Unit 6 Overview: Shakespeare

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Completion date: July 2022

Portfolio work on iPad - no formal assessment

You will learn how to:

- make some comments about characters, relationships, actions and themes by explain their actions and descriptions
- support ideas by using quotations and explaining the effect of certain words/phrases
- refer to specific details to support details and opinions
- explore the text as a performance and consider the audience reaction
- show an awareness of Elizabethan culture and society and explain links to the play you are studying

Unit Overview

During this unit, you will focus on developing the following skills:

- using paragraphs to structure writing about a
- showing understanding of characters, relationships, actions and themes by referring to details in the play
- explaining the plot and structure of the play in some detail
- supporting ideas by using quotations and explaining the effect of certain words/phrases
- showing you understand how Shakespeare's audience would have reacted and how a modern audience reacts to the play

Yellow Key Words: Subject terminology character: a person in a novel, play or film

An expert in English is:

wide range of texts.

and purposes.

Inquisitive and perceptive, an appreciative reader, who enjoys reading and responding analytically to a

Confident and creative, a compelling writer, able to adapt their style to suit a range of audiences, forms

Engaging and thoughtful, a fluent communicator,

confident to articulate their own opinions and responds to others with sensitivity and skill.

plot: the main events of a novel, play or film theme: a central idea in a novel, play or film

dramatist/playwright: a person who writes plays

audience: a group of spectators or listeners

scene: a part of a play or film

setting: the place or surroundings where a novel, play, film takes place

dramatic tension: anxiety or apprehension resulting from an uncertain, undecided, or mysterious situation

dialogue: a conversation between two people

stage direction: the instructions written in the script of a play that give direction to the actors or information about the scenery

Suggested reading or support available:

- The NoFearShakespeare website has a modern translation of Shakespeare's plays.
- There are numerous reference books in the Library about Shakespeare and the Elizabethan/Jacobean age – ask our Librarians where to find them.

iPad opportunities:

- access the play in the original text and in modern English via NoFearShakespeare website
- research social attitudes in Shakespeare's times
- research word origins and changes in word use
- explore images of different productions and interpretations of the play and individual characters
- research The Globe theatre and the importance of Elizabethan theatres

Cross curricular:

SMSC: understand and appreciate how attitudes (towards gender, the class system) and language in our society have changed in the last four hundred years

Purple Key words: Ambitious vocabulary

Athens/Athenian lamentable enchanted changeling unrequited love suitor thy/thine mischievous thee/thou reversal transformed transformation vile surreal mortals juxtaposition ass craftsmen slumbered humiliate

expound misaligned capricious dissembling transfigured asunder discord allusion disparity bathos