



Highsted Knowledge Organiser

Subject – English

Year 7 Term 3: Introduction to Shakespeare

What I need to know

- The expectations for women in Elizabethan society
- A range of key female characters in Shakespeare's play
- How to explore links between Elizabethan expectations and Shakespeare's characterisation
- The conventions of a Shakespearean tragic hero
- Three of Shakespeare's most famous tragic heroes
- How Shakespeare uses the supernatural in two of his plays
- How to express personal opinions about a text

Key vocabulary

- Subvert
- Conform
- Conventional/unconventional
- Sympathetic/unsympathetic
- Pathos
- Tragic hero
- Hamartia
- Characterisation
- Conventions
- Archetype

Student reference point

- Study a range of characters from a number of Shakespeare's plays
- Study Shakespeare's presentation of supernatural figures in *Macbeth* and *Hamlet*
- Explore Elizabethan attitudes towards and expectations of women
- Explore the conventions of a tragic hero
- Compare different characters in Shakespeare's plays
- Read the text and write/ discuss my thoughts and opinions about it
- Explore the context of Elizabethan society by reading about: social hierarchy, treatment of women, courtly love, political unrest
- Plan and write analytical essays. Practice writing PETER paragraphs with increasing detail from the text and analysis of devices. Green pen work on assessments will show improvements in my analysis.

Challenge questions

- Compare and contrast two of Shakespeare's plays. In what ways are they similar and/or different?
- Explain how a theatrical experience in the Globe Theatre would have been different to that of a modern theatrical production.
- Choose a play we have studied and watch two different versions of the opening scene. How do the different choices made impact on the audience?

Suggested reading

- *King of Shadows* by Susan Cooper
- *Bravo Mr William Shakespeare* by Marcia Williams
- *Macbeth: The Graphic Novel*

You may also want to watch these modern adaptations of Shakespeare's plays:

- 10 Things I Hate About You (starring Julia Stiles and Heath Ledger, rating: 12)
- She's the Man (starring Amanda Bynes and Channing Tatum, rating: 12A)
- Gnomeo and Juliet (with voices by James McAvoy and Emily Blunt, rating: U)

