

- This is an Introduction to Hamlet, so it will do exactly what it says on the tin and introduce students to some of the characters and the initial moments of the great tragedy, but it won't tell them the whole story.
- The scheme also works well in introducing students to the concepts of drama. I have delivered this scheme to classes with little or no drama experience and it has been very successful.
- You can pick and choose from the activities, taking what works for you and your students and leaving behind anything that you feel is extraneous but, at the very least, you should introduce the text and allow students to bring it to life.
- This scheme is aimed at upper KS2 students – Y4, Y5 and Y6 – and lower KS3 students – Y7 and Y8 – but may also work well with younger and older students.
- The evaluation questions are of my own devising but you are free to use others of your own choosing.
- I've chosen to refer to the participants as 'students' rather than children, or pupils. Just my choice of generic term.
- Some teachers or drama practitioners may find my instructions patronising or, at best, blindingly obvious. I try to write material that helps every level of practitioner so I hope that it does!
- If you want a short (one act) version of the play, try *Hamlet, the Murder Mystery* here: https://www.artsonthemove.co.uk/e_shop/plays/hamlet-murder-mystery
- You can also find good resources here: <https://www.rsc.org.uk/education/teacher-resources/search/play/hamlet/type/packs/age/any/>

TERMINOLOGY:

Freezes, still images, freeze frames, tableaux – are all the same thing!

Improvisation is making it up. Prepared improvisation means you get to rehearse; spontaneous improvisation means you don't!

Narration doesn't have to explain exactly what's going on, it can be accompanying dialogue, sections of text, sentences or simply associated words.

Thought-tracking and Responding in Role are very similar, except that Thought-tracking usually happens from within the drama and Responding in Role can happen away from it, such as with Hotseating.

Conscience Alley helps a main character in a drama to make a decision by listening to differing viewpoints.

DRAMA CODE:

- Enter the drama space quietly
- Prepare yourself for the lesson properly
- Work with others respectfully
- Listen and respond carefully
- Evaluate each other's work considerately
- Develop your drama skills effectively

THE HAMLET RAP

This narrative poem tells the whole story of Hamlet in 14 verses – plus chorus! It was devised and created by members of Act Too Youth Theatre as a finale to a performance of Hamlet, the Murder Mystery – a one-act adaptation of Shakespeare’s great tragedy. The members wrote this, working in small groups, and performed it as a whole group at a cultural event. One of our parents created a drum backbeat for us (on CD) and we used this as a rhythm during both the creation and performance of the piece.

I was incredibly impressed that members of the youth theatre – some as young as 10 years old – were able to recall the whole story of Hamlet. They added gestures and small mimes to the performance to bring it to life and I was very proud of them. They also had lots of fun creating and performing it!

Please feel free to perform **The Hamlet Rap** in any way that you and your students choose. Enjoy!

SHAKESPEAREAN INSULTS

Shakespeare was the put-down king of his era. He had a witty and sometimes cruel way with words for his characters to use against each other. He also brought many insulting phrases and expressions into current popular use.

In this pack we'll look at some great insults from 5 different Shakespeare plays, briefly exploring the nature of the insults in each play, and will take an insults mini quiz entitled 'Which Character Said This?' with multiple-choice answers in the Answers Section. Finally, students can create their own Shakespearean Insults by having a go on one of the 'insult generators'!

This pack is useful for any students aged 11+ who are studying Shakespeare, performing in a Shakespeare play, or taking part in a drama group activity. It's also a fun Shakespearean language exercise for an English or literacy class. As an added bonus this pack can be used as a classroom activity for any groups who are performing one of the Arts On The Move plays listed. Links to these plays can be found at the [back of this pack](#).

The plays covered are:

Hamlet

Macbeth

Romeo and Juliet

Othello

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Pack contents:

[Hamlet Insults](#)

[Macbeth Insults](#)

[Romeo and Juliet Insults](#)

[Othello Insults](#)

[A Midsummer Night's Dream Insults](#)

[Mini Quiz: Which Character Said This?](#)

[Insult Generators](#)

[Mini Quiz Answers Section](#)

[Additional Resources](#)