



GRADES  
**2-4**

OTM-1866

- 8 Five To Twenty-Minute Plays
- 2 Holiday Concert Plays
- Program For Easy Staging, Costumes & Shakespeare Festival

Reproducible  
**HANDS-ON**  
Activities

# SHAKESPEARE SHORTS

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

TEACHER  
**Rubrics**  
INCLUDED!  
STUDENT



A Midsummer Night's Dream

ON THE MARK PRESS

# Illustrated Vocabulary

actor



actress



costume



make-up



The Globe Theatre



stage



trapdoor



balcony



performance

props



script



audience



groundling





# Hamlet

## Grade 2 Adaptation

Reading Level	Performance Length	Number of Parts	Genre
Easy	5 to 10 minutes	9	Tragedy

### Synopsis



Long ago, in Denmark, Hamlet's father, the King, died, and Hamlet's uncle, Claudius, took his place. The ghost of the dead king returns and tells his son that Claudius is to blame. Hamlet then moves slowly toward revenge. In the end, Hamlet has his revenge against Claudius, but is killed in the process.

### Characters



Hamlet, Prince of Denmark	Horatio, friend to Hamlet
The Ghost of Hamlet's father	Gertrude, Hamlet's mother
Claudius, Hamlet's uncle and King of Denmark	
Actors (2)	Laertes
Narrator	

### Pronunciation Guide

**Laertes** (lay-air'-teez)

**Horatio** (hor-ay'-shee-o)

### Staging & Costumes



This play can be staged with minimal props and backgrounds; the focus is on the story, and whether or not Hamlet will avenge his father's death.

As far as costumes, a crown will have to be made. The ghost might use a mask, or a flashlight to illuminate its face. As for the rest, things should be kept simple.

### Teaching Tips

- The entrance of the ghost should be very atmospheric: lower the lights, perhaps use spooky music, and illuminate the ghost's face with a flashlight.
- The student playing Hamlet must be very strong orally, able to memorize a number of lines, and mime as the narrator reads.

### Extension Activities

- Hamlet discovers Claudius' guilt through a play; write your own version of that play, perform it.
- Create a comic book version of the play.



Juliet's heart was also broken, so she died, just as both families entered with Friar Laurence and the Prince.

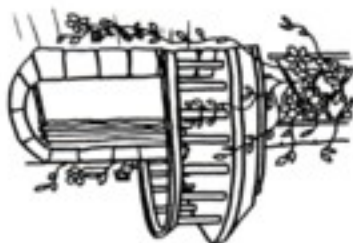
**Friar Laurence:** What has happened here? Both dead?

**Prince:** Both families must now end their fight. Look what it has done!

For never was there a story of more woe, than this of Juliet and her Romeo.



# Romeo and Juliet



## Dramatis Personae

Romeo –

Juliet –

The Prince of Verona –

Juliet's Nurse –

Mercutio –

Tybalt –

Friar Laurence –

A Capulet Man –

Romeo's Parents –

Juliet's Parents –

Narrator –

# King Lear

Reading Level	Performance Length	Number of Parts	Genre
Challenging	10 to 15 minutes	16	Tragedy

## Synopsis



Long ago, in England, lived an old king named King Lear. One day, he made up his mind to divide his kingdom into three equal parts, so that there should be no arguing over land after he was dead. His plans go badly, however, when two of his daughters, Goneril and Regan, profess their love falsely, and his youngest daughter, Cordelia, is banished for being unable to profess her love beyond that of a daughter to her father. After being mistreated, Lear races out into a storm and wanders on a heath, where he loses his wits. Eventually, his unfaithful daughters end up dead, and while he is briefly reunited with Cordelia, begging her forgiveness, she is executed on the order of the villain Edmund, who has been secretly plotting to take over his father's house through deception and brutality. Broken-hearted, Lear dies.

## Characters



Lear, King of England

### His daughters:

Goneril

Regan

Cordelia

King of France

Soldiers (2)

The King's Fool

Captain

### Faithful servants to the King:

Gloucester

Kent

### Gloucester's sons:

Edgar

Edmund

Regan's husband, Cornwall

Goneril's husband, Albany

Narrator

## Pronunciation Guide

**Goneril** (gon'-er-ill)

**Regan** (ree'-gan)

**Gloucester** (gloss'-ter)

**Cordelia** (cor-deal'-ee-ya' or cor-deal'-ya)

## Staging & Costumes



A crown will have to be made for the king, and a gauze bandage will have to be provided to cover the injuries to Gloucester's eyes. If the gauze is kept thin enough, just once around, then the actor will be able to see through it. Lear's daughters, the three princesses, can wear long dresses from home, whereas boys can wear a man's white or light-colored shirts, not tucked in, and secured at the waist by a belt. Weapons are mimed.

## Vocabulary

**doth** - an old form of the word "do"

**hence** - used here to mean "go away"

**beseech** - an old form of "beg"

**o'er-read** - used here to mean "a letter that I have not read yet"

**dost thou** - an old form of "Do you...?"

**nuncle** - used here as a friendly address, like an "uncle".

**thou** - an old form of "you"

**shalt** - and old form of "shall"

**hither** - an old form of "here"

**thine** - an old form of "your(s)"

## Teaching Tips

- Introduce the play as what can happen when people lie to one another.
- Discuss what is meant by fairness (i.e., when sharing), and how cheating might affect someone.

## Extension Activities

- Retell the story as a newspaper article, highlighting the main characters and events.
- Keep a diary as King Lear or Edmund: What are his thoughts, feelings, regrets?