



Rainford High English Department
Year 6-7 Transition Project



Shakespeare

Welcome!

This booklet is to give you a taste of some of the tasks and activities you will work on in Year 7 at Rainford High.

The theme of this work is based on the great Elizabethan playwright William Shakespeare. You may have been introduced to Shakespeare in Year 6, but don't worry if you haven't as we will help you to learn about his life, his world and his works when you join us in September. This booklet is the beginning of your journey.

Over the summer break, we would like you to complete the tasks in this booklet. There are five sections for you to complete:

- 1) Shakespeare Research
- 2) Shakespearean Insults
- 3) The Seven Ages of Man
- 4) Witches and Witchcraft
- 5) Sonnets

Your tasks are fairly straightforward but you might need to research some of the answers or ask your parents. When you have completed the booklet, please keep it in a safe place and bring it with you to your first English lesson.

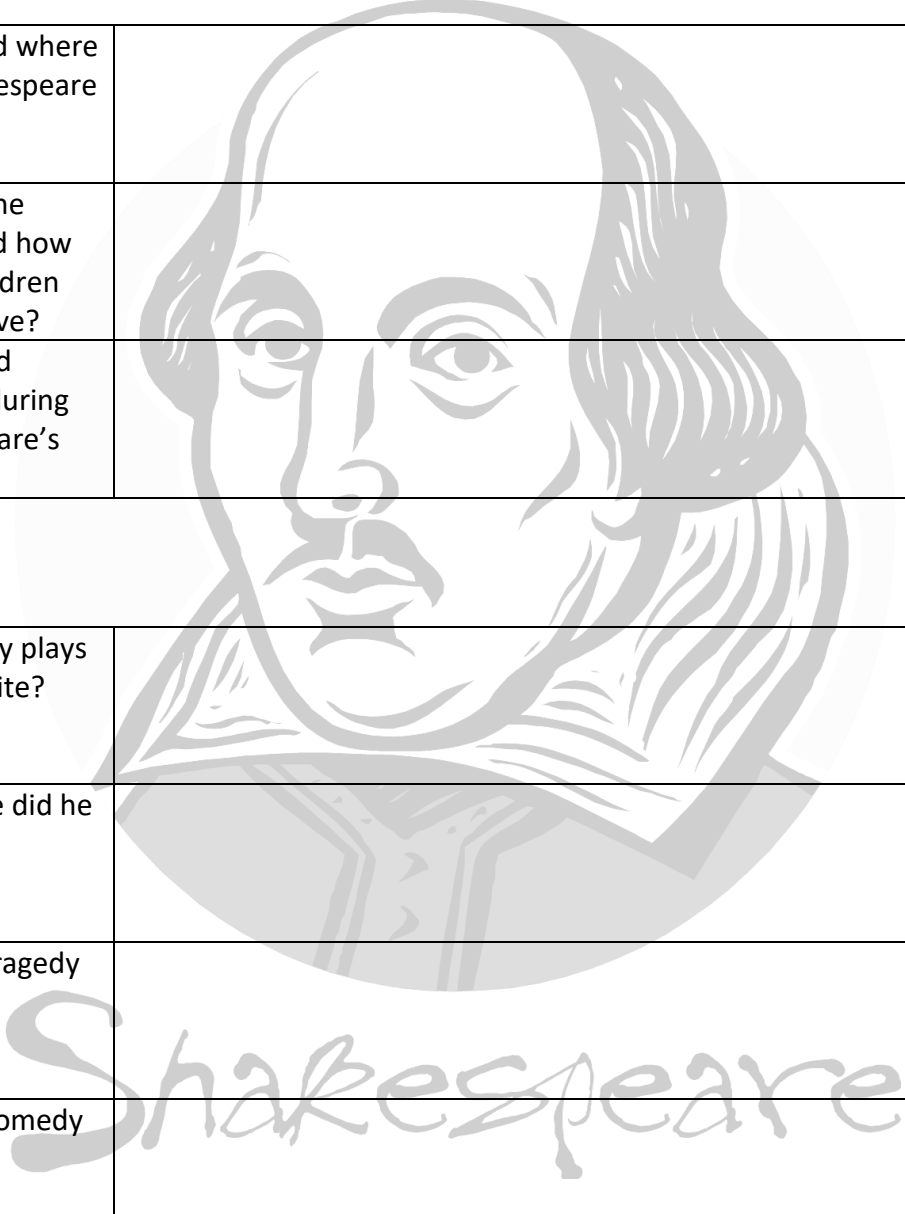
We will select five students from Year 7 to receive a prize for their completed work.

Good luck!

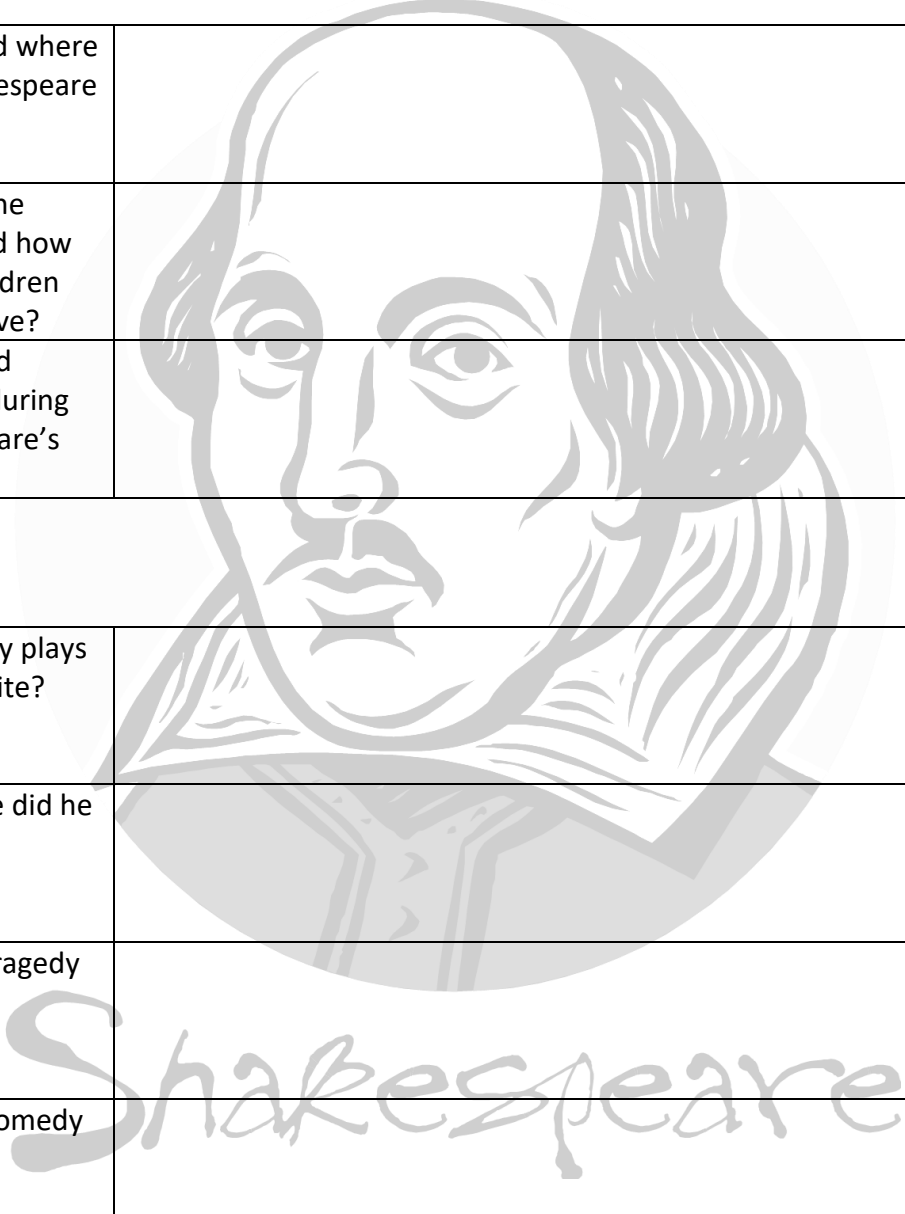
Shakespeare Research

Task – Research the following information about William Shakespeare

Life:

When and where was Shakespeare born?	
Who did he marry and how many children did he have?	
Who ruled England during Shakespeare's life?	

Career:

How many plays did he write?	
What else did he write?	
List five tragedy plays:	
List five comedy plays:	
List five history plays:	
Where were the plays performed?	

Shakespearean Insults

Despite the serious nature of many of Shakespeare's plays, there is actually a lot of comedy present. One way in which Shakespeare tried to create this humour was through insults. However, Shakespeare's insults are completely different from insults we would use today (400 years difference).

See if you can work out the meaning of the following insults (use a dictionary for help):

1) Thou puking hasty-witted haggard.

.....
.....

2) Thou dankish scurvy-stained harpy.

.....
.....

3) Thou droning onion-eyed foot-licker.

.....
.....

4) Thou frothy ill-nurtured rascal.

.....
.....

5) Thou paunchy leaden-footed lout.

.....
.....

Now let's try to create our own insults. All you need to do is begin your sentence with 'Thou' and then select a word from column A, B and C from the chart below:

Column A	Column B	Column C
<i>bootless</i>	<i>beetle-headed</i>	<i>barnacle</i>
<i>droning</i>	<i>brazen-faced</i>	<i>codpiece</i>
<i>errant</i>	<i>dizzy-eyed</i>	<i>foot-licker</i>
<i>frothy</i>	<i>fly-bitten</i>	<i>harpy</i>
<i>goatish</i>	<i>fool-born</i>	<i>knave</i>
<i>impertinent</i>	<i>idle-headed</i>	<i>lout</i>
<i>infectious</i>	<i>ill-nurtured</i>	<i>measle</i>
<i>paunchy</i>	<i>leaden-footed</i>	<i>miscreant</i>
<i>puking</i>	<i>onion-eyed</i>	<i>rascal</i>
<i>vain</i>	<i>pox-marked</i>	<i>vassal</i>
<i>villainous</i>	<i>rump-fed</i>	<i>wench</i>
<i>wayward</i>	<i>tickle-brained</i>	<i>whey-face</i>

Write your insults here:

.....

.....

.....

.....

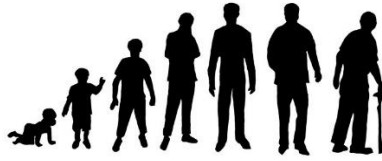
.....

.....

.....

.....

The Seven Ages of Man



The following extract is from the play *As You Like It* and is a monologue spoken by the character named Jacques. The speech compares the world to a stage and life to a play and catalogues the seven stages of a man's life.

All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their 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 lined,
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 slippered pantaloon,
With spectacles on nose and pouch on side;
His youthful hose, well saved, a world too wide
For his shrunk shank, and his big manly voice,
Turning again toward 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.

Task

Complete the following chart to explore the seven stages of man (part of the first stage has been done for you):

Stage	Stage of life	Quote from the text	Modern version of the quote
1	The infant	mewling and puking in his nurse's arms	
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

Witches and Witchcraft

In Shakespeare's time, people were very superstitious and they believed in witchcraft. Witches were suspected to be people who had made a pact with the Devil in exchange for supernatural powers.

In the play Macbeth, we meet three witches at the beginning of the story and they tell Macbeth his future. In the extract below, Banquo (Macbeth's close friend) describes the appearance of the witches.

BANQUO

How far is't called to Forres? What are these
So wither'd and so wild in their attire,
That look not like th' inhabitants o' the earth,
And yet are on't? Live you? or are you aught
That man may question? You seem to understand me,
By each at once her chappy finger laying
Upon her skinny lips: you should be women,
And yet your beards forbid me to interpret
That you are so.



Use this description to draw a picture of the witch and label the drawing with quotes from the extract (use the space provided below).

Sonnets

In addition to at least 39 known plays, Shakespeare also wrote 154 poems known as sonnets. A sonnet is a usually written to express love or romantic feelings for someone.

The following text is known as **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.

Answer the following questions on the text (you might need to research some of the answers):

1. How many lines are there?

.....
.....

2. How many stanzas are there?

.....
.....

3. What is the rhyme scheme?

.....
.....

4. How many quatrains are there?

.....
.....

5. Write the rhyming couplet below:

.....
.....

6. In the first line, what is Shakespeare comparing the object of his love to? What could this mean?

.....
.....

7. What is Shakespeare saying about summer in stanza 2?

.....
.....

8. What is “thy eternal summer”? What kind of figure of language is this?

.....
.....

9. How many syllables are in each line of poetry? What is this technique called?

.....
.....

10. Why would Shakespeare compare his love to a summer day? Why not pick something else?

.....
.....

Thank You!

We hope you have a great summer and we can't wait to meet you in September.

Take care

The English Department