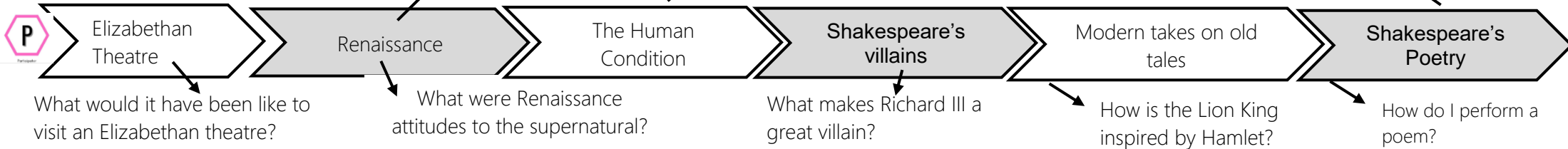


Learning Organiser for Y7 English – All the world's a stage



What am I going to learn?



Elizabethan Social and Historical Context

Renaissance: Meaning 'rebirth', a period in European history dating from the 14th – 16th centuries. People were challenging new ideas in all aspects of life – including medicine and religion!

The Elizabethan Era - Queen Elizabeth I reigned from 1533-1603. She was the final monarch in the Tudor line and was a Protestant.

The Jacobean Era - King James I of England (VI of Scotland) was the first in the Stuart line. He had an interest in witchcraft and theatre.

Theatre - The theatre was very different during Shakespeare's lifetime than it is today: they were open air so only performed in daylight; only men were allowed on stage so young boys played the roles of women.



The Human Condition

No matter what our differences might be, humans all share certain characteristics, challenges and questions. Essentially, we are all **born**, we all **die**, we all **learn** and **grow**, we all experience **emotion** and **conflict** and we all have **aspirations** and goals. Great writers, like Shakespeare, explore the human condition in their literature.

The Seven Ages of Man

The seven ages of man, as stated by Shakespeare, are:
Infancy,
School age,
Teenager,
Young Adult,
Middle age,
Old age,
and Death.

How does Shakespeare explore evil?

The supernatural: Elizabethans and Jacobians believed in the supernatural, including witchcraft. Queen Elizabeth was concerned enough to pass the Witchcraft Act in 1563, making witchcraft punishable by death! Shakespeare includes the supernatural in many of his works to create: fear, tension, conflict...and sometimes to create comedy too!

The tragic flaw: Sometimes evil isn't provoked by the supernatural in Shakespeare's plays! Very often, **evil is part of a character's human nature**. Often, characters have tragic flaws: **personality weaknesses or faults**.

More often than not, the flaw is **AMBITION** or **PRIDE**. They are greedy for success. A key example is Richard III.

Other characters like Hamlet, have **procrastination** (laziness) as their tragic flaw!

Key Terms for Shakespeare:

Act- a larger section in a play.

Scene- the smaller sections within an act, usually with different settings for each scene.

Playwright- the writer of a play

Soliloquy/Aside- One character, alone on stage, sharing their inner thoughts and feelings, making an audience complicit, is a soliloquy. If other characters are present on stage, and the character still speaks directly to the audience, it is an aside.

Dramatic Irony-When the audience knows more than characters.

Rhyme- Rhyming couplets emphasise key ideas, and signal an end

Figurative Language-Phrases that go beyond the literal meaning to convey a message or additional meaning.

Simile-A figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind, used to make a description more emphatic or vivid.

Alliteration-The use of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.

Metaphor- describing something as something else in a figurative sense.