

Year 7 Knowledge Organiser Introduction to Shakespeare

Form (Play)- Key Terminology 1

Scene- a brief moment in a play consisting of dialogue and action.
Act- several scenes following on from each other. Each act forms the different parts of the plot.
Stage Direction- an instruction in the script of a play, directing the movements of the actors, the arrangement of scenery, etc.

Audience- the people watching the play.

Playwright- the writer of the play

Soliloquy/monologue- an act of speaking one's thoughts aloud when by oneself or regardless of any hearers, especially by a character in a play.

Structure- Key Terminology 2

5 Act play- a drama is often divided into five parts, or acts, which some refer to as a dramatic arc

Exposition- the opening section where the setting is fixed in a particular place and time, the mood is set, and characters are introduced.

Rising Action- an exciting force or inciting event

Climax- the climax is the turning point, which changes the protagonist's fate.

Falling Action- the tension decreases and it wraps up the narrative, resolves its loose ends, and leads toward the closure.

Denouement- the ending with some sort of resolution and the tying up of loose ends.

Catastrophe- the final action that completes the unravelling of the plot in a play, especially in a tragedy. The hero meets his end.

Language- Key Terminology 3

Literary Devices:

Repetition- Repeated words or ideas

Imagery- Creating a mental picture for the reader through appealing to the senses (smell, touch, taste, see, hear).

Simile- Comparing one thing to another using like or as

Metaphor- Describes an object or action in a way that isn't literally true, but helps explain an idea or make a comparison

Connotation- What a word makes the reader feel, think or imagine.

Symbolism- the way an object is given greater meaning within the novel so it has added importance.

Motif- a recurring symbol within the novel

Personification- giving human characteristics to an inanimate object



Context

William Shakespeare (bapt. 26 April 1564 – 23 April 1616)^[a] was an English playwright, poet, and actor, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's greatest dramatist.

He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon" (or simply "the Bard").

His works consist of some 39 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and a few other verses, some of uncertain authorship.

His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright.

Shakespeare was born and raised in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.

Shakespeare produced most of his known works between 1589 and 1613. His early plays were primarily comedies and histories and are regarded as some of the best work produced in these genres.

He then wrote mainly tragedies until 1608, among them *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Othello*, *King Lear*, and *Macbeth*, all considered to be among the finest works in the English language.^[2]

In the last phase of his life, he wrote tragicomedies (also known as romances).

DRAMATIC DEVICES

Foreshadowing: a device in which the writer gives a warning or indication of the future

Dramatic Tension: a sense of excitement or anticipation that the audience feels

Dramatic Irony: occurs when the audience are aware of a detail that characters on stage are not aware of.

Dramatic Tension: a sense of excitement or anticipation that the audience feels.

Pauses and cliffhangers: these techniques are used to give suspense to the play

Shakespeare's Style

Verse: Speech written in poetic form

Blank Verse: a formal poetic form where each foot of a line is stressed on the second syllable (de-DUM) and each has five feet creating IAMBIC PENTAMETRE.

Prose: A form of written speech that reflects the style of ordinary speech without a rhythmic structure.

The **Globe Theatre** was a theatre in London associated with William Shakespeare. It was built in 1599 by Shakespeare's playing company, the Lord Chamberlain's Men, and was destroyed by fire on 29 June 1613. A second Globe Theatre was built on the same site by June 1614 and closed down in 1642.

A modern reconstruction of the Globe, named "Shakespeare's Globe", opened in 1997 approximately 750 feet (230 m) from the site of the original theatre.

