

As with all your Level 5 modules research and written work should be included in a Process Workbook. This PW will need to be digital no more than 4000 words. Your Notebook will, no doubt, be much longer.

*****This link takes you to a GREAT introduction to Performing Shakespeare, by the legend that is Cicely Berry – (just look at the celebrities in her workshop!) Before you embark on anything....watch this!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5bPZ7jvsJI>

.....you might be inspired to watch the whole DVD series!***

Wk 1 – 20th April - Reading and Research

The plays we will be looking at:

Below are the links to the plays that we will be looking at in weeks 2 and 3, but obviously you will need time to read them so here are the links so that you can begin your reading task.

Can you please make sure that you use these scripts in any online class/referencing as we can refer to line numbers and all be on the same page (metaphorically and literally).

Much Ado About Nothing script – this is the version we will be working on

http://www.shakespeare-online.com/plays/much_1_1.html

Macbeth – this is the version we will be working on

<http://www.shakespeare-online.com/plays/macbethscenes.html>

Here are your week 1 tasks:

These are all research and information gathering in preparation for the following weeks so please ensure you complete them in week 1.

We will discuss these research tasks in group seminars. Make sure you find a ‘fun fact’ around each of the 4 tasks to share with your seminar group.

Task 1: Elizabethan Theatre

Research Elizabethan theatre and write up this research in your Process Workbook. You will need to include some of the factual information such as dates, style, design, performances etc but I would also like some more specific research from the viewpoint of an actor. Which companies were around? Who attended? How were actors viewed by society at that time? Was there a ‘training’? etc.

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ONE “FUN FACT” FOR YOUR GROUP SEMINAR DISCUSSION!

Make sure you include references to where you got the information you are including (website links/documents etc)

Some helpful resources.

This is not an exclusive list, but will get you started please find some of your own,
Globe – documentary short - <https://libguides.hacc.edu/shakespeare/Elizabethan-theatre>

Many other research options:

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&tbm=vid&sxsrf=ALeKk01hWbNxYxV3T5aSYGVBrBcVjtLAnQ:1585119483846&q=elizabethan+theatre+documentary&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiYlluehrXoAhWHQUEAHfU-AdAQ1QIoAnoECAAQAw&biw=1280&bih=738&dpr=2>

Task 2: Who was William Shakespeare?

Research William Shakespeare the person and the writer. Give a background on who he was, when he began writing, his writing style, his education, his upbringing etc. How was he perceived at the time by the public, by other writers, by actors?

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ONE “FUN FACT” FOR YOUR GROUP SEMINAR DISCUSSION!

There are many resources out there....here are some.

https://www.google.com/search?q=who+was+william+shakespeare&client=safari&rls=en&sxsrf=ALeKk03YgyApWWxkaWK_2ttPvSpPFyo21Q:1585120050680&source=Inms&tbm=vid&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiq-a-siLXoAhUOhlwKHT5rB6AQ_AUoAXoECCAQCQ&biw=1280&bih=738

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00546s8>

<http://www.shakespeare-online.com>

Task 3: Other Elizabethan Playwrights

Here is a list of some of Shakespeare's contemporaries. There were others. Choose one and research in the same way you have looked at Shakespeare. What was their background, education, writing style? Were they successful? Did they have their own companies? Where did they perform? Who did they work for/with?

Christopher Marlow

Francis Beaumont

John Fletcher

Thomas Middleton

Thomas Kyd

Ben Johnson

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ONE “FUN FACT” FOR YOUR GROUP SEMINAR DISCUSSION!

Task 4: Who were the actors?

Who were the actors of the Elizabethan age? Who was Shakespeare writing for?

Explore the acting companies of the time. What was it like to be a performer? Did they work exclusively for one company? Did they freelance in the way that we do now? What was the acting style of that period? Was there a style? Were there 'famous' actors at that time? Choose one and research their career/life.

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ONE “FUN FACT” FOR YOUR GROUP SEMINAR DISCUSSION!

PRACTICAL WORK IN PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK’S TUTOR GROUP

Practical exploration: Iambic Pentameter/Metre

Watch the RSC video below.

Using the resources outlined below and others you may find I would like you to explore Shakespeare’s iambic pentameter. There is also a ‘Pentameter Worksheet’ on MOODLE. What is iambic pentameter? How does it sound? What is a syllable? Where can you find an example of iambic pentameter in Shakespeare’s plays? Can you ‘beat the rhythm’? Can you physically step or gallop the rhythm (see the RSC video below).

ESSENTIAL VIEWING/READING

1: RSC video about metre <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Qv-sjQHgZ8>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ee_M1qUQ9nY

2: Please refer to the PDF of IAMBIC PENTAMETER on this MOODLE page

3: Explanation - <http://www.shakespeare-online.com/sonnets/sonnetstyle.html>

Helpful/additional reading and viewing

Helpful ‘back to basics’ video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5IsuyUNu_4

Practical Task: We will present back in your Tutor Groups next week on Tuesday 28th April via ZOOM - See the timetable below.

Watch some of the Sonnet Project <https://globeplayer.tv/sonnetprojectnyc>

Choose a sonnet from the ones you have seen above - NOT ‘Shall I compare thee to a Summer’s Day’ (they are all numbered)

- read it - Here is a link to all the sonnets
<http://www.shakespeare-online.com/sonnets/>
- research it – when was it written? Who is it written for/about?
- interpret it – what do **you** think it’s about? What is **your** response to it?
- Rewrite it in modern english
- beat it out – unlock the iambic pentameter. Can you say it in the pentameter rhythm? Rehearse it in the rhythm (you will present this task back). Use the RSC video for help. We did this in the first year with our ‘Sonnet Catwalk’.
- notate it – in your Process Workbook – notate the pentameter in your sonnet with the cross/dash (or circle/dash) – you can see an example of this in the PDF of IAMBIC PENTAMETER on this MOODLE page.
- rehearse it – create a backstory and an outline for the character/performance. Similar to the ‘Sonnet Project’ films above, explore the intentions and emotion behind the sonnet you have chosen and rehearse your own interpretation.

Practical session on Tuesday 28th April

In small tutor groups you will perform **two versions** of your chosen sonnet

1: Perform your sonnet obeying the Iambic Pentameter.

2: Perform your sonnet with your chosen interpretation.

Wk 1 Timetable – Your groups are on the MOODLE page.

Wk 1 – Reading and Research

April 20th – 24th

Monday 20th – 5:00pm Full group chat via ZOOM for module launch and Q&A

Wednesday 22nd – Seminar Group sessions via ZOOM – this is just a check-in session to see how you're getting on. You do not have to do all your tasks at this point!

10:00am – Macbeth Group

11:00am – Hamlet Group

12:00pm – Richard III Group (not including Amanda, Alexandria, Amber and India)

5:00pm - Amanda, Alexandria, Amber and India

Friday 24th – Seminar Group sessions via ZOOM

Fun Fact and research feedback/discussion

3:00pm – Hamlet Group

4:00pm - Macbeth Group

5:00pm - Richard III Group

Wk 2 Timetable – information on the content of Wk 2 is in a separate file.

Wk 2 – Sonnets and Characters

April 27th – May 1st

Tuesday 28th April

Practical Sonnet Performance Task in Tutorial Groups

10:30am – Cordelia

12:00pm – Cleopatra

2:00pm -Lady Macbeth

3:15pm – Titania

6:00 pm – Ophelia

Friday 1st May – Seminar Group sessions via ZOOM

Character research feedback/discussion

3:00pm – Hamlet Group

4:00pm - Macbeth Group

5:00pm - Richard III Group

