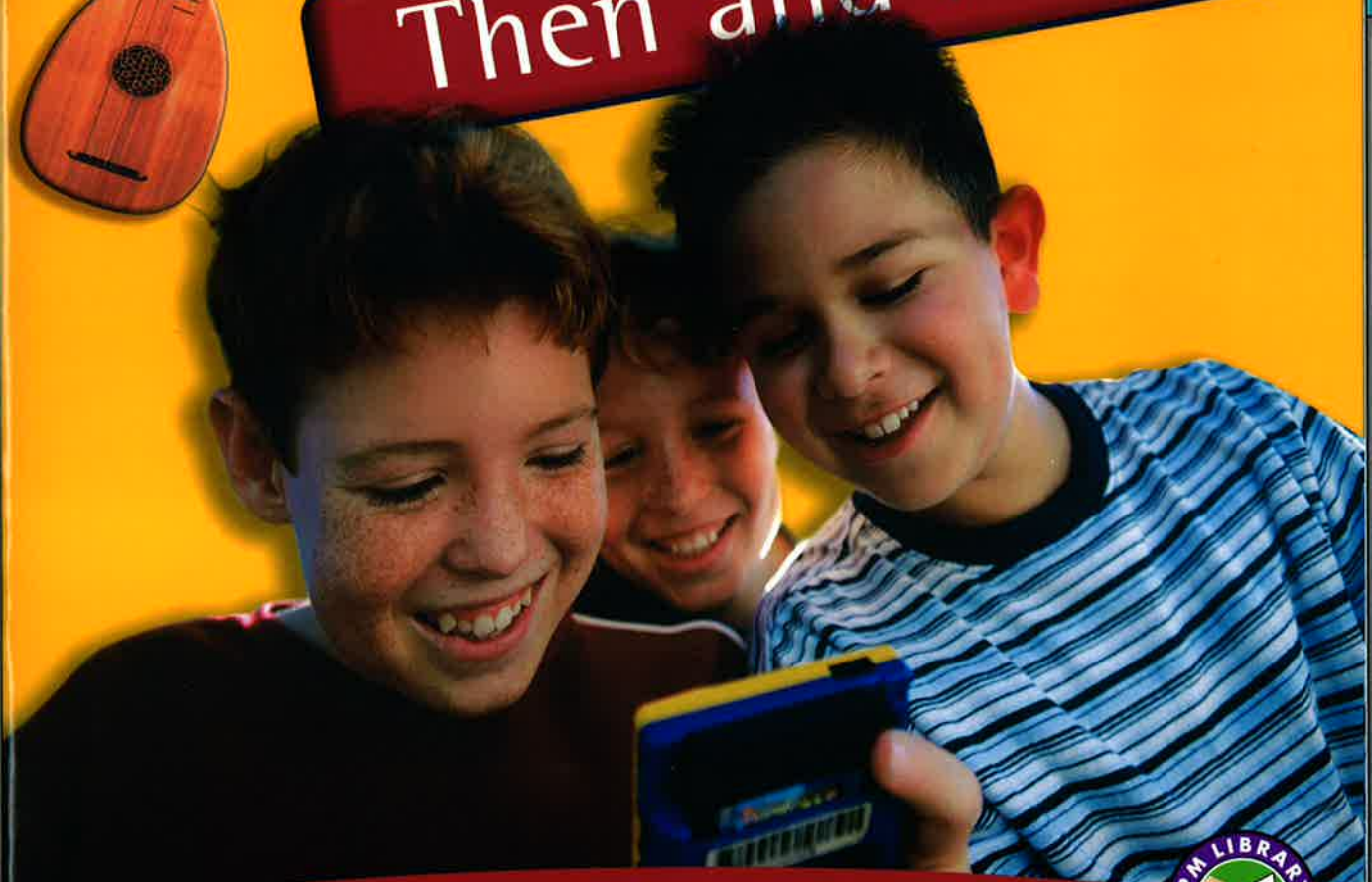
Having Fun

Then and Now







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Lara Whitehead

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Having Fun, Then and Now

Key vocabulary

today, entertainment, people, choices, modern, games, sport, music, machines, theatre, ancient, festival, ceremonies, musician, instruments

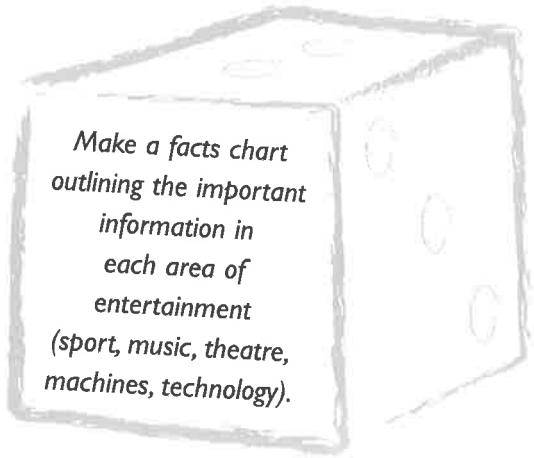
Grammatical conventions

- Pronouns: them, they, we, you, me, us
- Using commas between a list of nouns or adjectives: DVDs, CD players and computers; gold, silver and bronze

Spelling:

- Contractions: let's, I'd, I'm, I've
- Word building – adding 'ing': travelling, singing, evening
- 'ow / ou': house, out, down, how
- Plurals: es, s

Creative thinking task – Knowledge



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Chapter 1

Sports

Playing and watching sports has been a form of entertainment for thousands of years. The ancient Greeks started the Olympic Games, while the Romans built huge stadiums to watch **chariot** races. Today, millions of people still play or watch sporting events for fun.

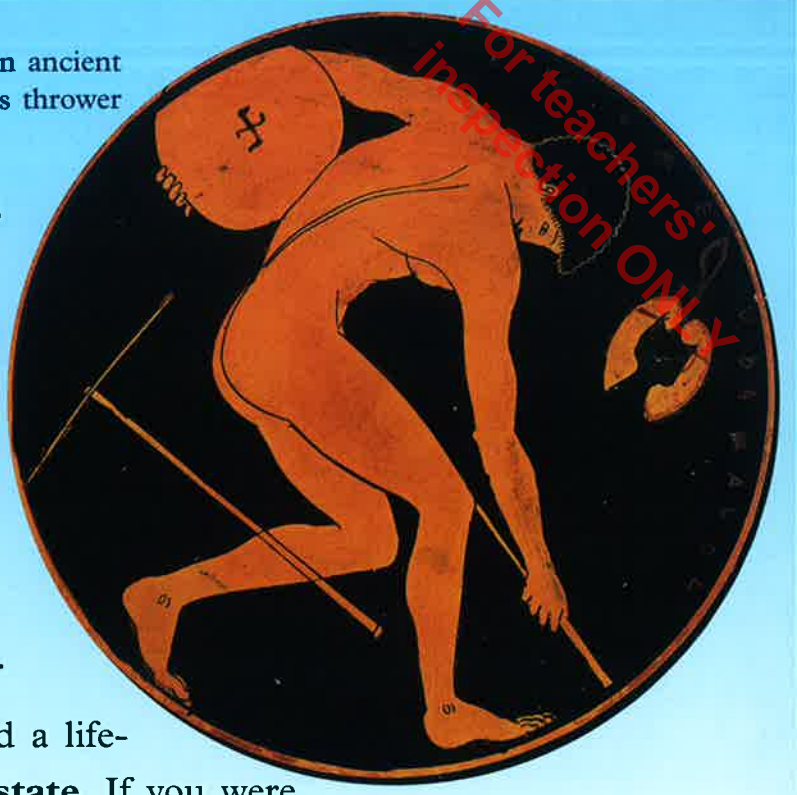
The ancient Olympics

Long ago, in 776 BC, the first ancient Olympic Games were held in Greece. They were part of a religious **festival** in honour of **Zeus**, the father of all the Greek gods and goddesses. The only event held in the very early Olympic Games was the foot race.

A modern stadium can hold hundreds of thousands of spectators.



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a painting of an ancient Greek discus thrower

The word **athlete** comes from an ancient Greek word that means 'one who competes for a prize'. At the ancient Olympic Games, the greatest prize for winners was a branch from a wild olive tree, but there were other prizes too.

Some champions received a life-long prize from their **city-state**. If you were a champion from Athens, you might have been awarded one free meal a day at the city hall for the rest of your life. Or, you might have been allowed to live free of charge in the **Pyrtaneum**, a special hall where important citizens lived. Other city-states allowed champions to stop paying taxes for four years. Other ancient prizes for Olympic champions included oxen, shields, woollen cloaks and olive oil.



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The modern Olympics

Today, the Olympic Games include many different sports, such as beach volleyball, mountain biking, softball and trampolining. Millions of people around the world watch them on television. However, unlike athletes in the past, modern athletes compete for gold, silver and bronze medals.



Katharine Merry, Cathy Freeman and Lorraine Graham display their 400 metres medals at the 2000 Olympic Games.

The modern Olympics also include other forms of entertainment. Opening ceremonies – such as those at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney – blend music, dance and theatre. At the end of Sydney's opening ceremony, athlete Cathy Freeman lit the Olympic flame in a dramatic ending to the night's entertainment.



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Cathy Freeman lighting the Olympic flame at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

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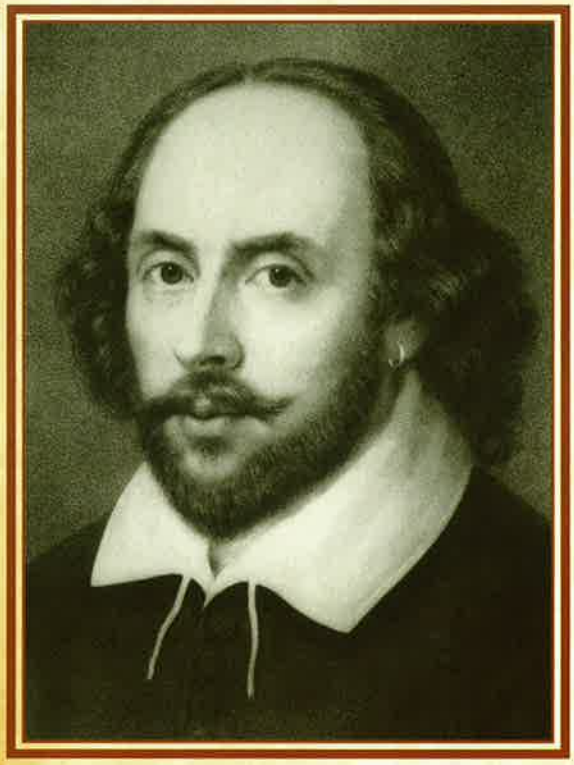
Chapter 2

The London Times July 10, 1595

THEATRE

Romeo & Juliet

a play by Shakespeare



Reviewed by Matthew Inkspot

Last night was the opening of a new play by William Shakespeare, called *Romeo and Juliet*. Romeo and Juliet fall in love, but their families hate each other. They refuse to allow the two young people to see each other. If you want to know how the story ends, come to the Globe Theatre this weekend.



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The best actor was the young boy who played Juliet. Since no women were allowed on stage, boys played all of the female parts. They looked quite lovely in their dresses and wigs!

Unfortunately, the special effects in the play were rather basic. Romeo carried a burning torch when it was supposed to be night time. Juliet's balcony was just a small platform above the stage. However, the words were so beautiful that I could still imagine Romeo in a lush garden, wooing Juliet on her stone balcony.



You can buy a ticket to the play for just one penny, but you'll have to stand on the dirt floor of the pit below the stage. Three pennies will get you to the Gentlemen's Room with a cushion for the hard wooden benches. Wealthy viewers might wish to pay more and sit in the upper levels of the theatre. When the trumpet blasts, be sure to quieten down so the play can begin.

Overall, I think *Romeo and Juliet* is a rather good play and worth the ticket price. Let's hope Shakespeare continues to write more plays in the future.