So oramatic!



From comedy to tragedy

Sharon Parsons

Nelson Literacy Directions

For teachers' inspection Only

NELSON
CENGAGE Learning

So Dramatic!

Text: Sharon Parsons
Editors: Sharon Parsons and Rebecca Henson
Project editor: Annabel Smith
Text design: Simply Literacy Limited
Cover design: Stella Vassiliou
Series design: Simply Literacy Limited,
Michelle Frolla, James Lowe and Jennifer Warwick
Photo research: Simply Literacy Limited
Production controller: Adam Bextream

Acknowledgements
The author and publisher would like to acknowledge permission to reproduce material from the following sources:

Front cover, pp. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (excluding bottom), 6, 7, 8, 9 (excluding middle), 10 (excluding bottom left), 11 (excluding top right), 12, 13 (middle left, middle right, bottom, inset), 14, 15–19 (excluding Pirate Ship Makeover illustrations), 20–23 (excluding Queen Genevieve and the Soppy Songs illustrations), 24–27 (excluding Due for Destruction illustrations), 28–31 (excluding La Boca Twilight illustrations), back cover: Dreamstime; p. 5 (bottom): Jastro/Louvre; p. 9 (middle): Maschinenjunge; pp. 10 (bottom left), 11 (top right), 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 29 (inset icons), 20–23 (background): iStockphoto; p. 13 (top far left, top left, top right, top far right): Maurice Sand; pp. 15–19 (Pirate Ship Makeover illustrations): Bettina Guthridge/Simply Literacy; pp. 20–23 (Queen Genevieve and the Soppy Songs illustrations): James Hart/Simply Literacy; pp. 24–27 (Due for Destruction illustrations): Vasja Koman/Simply Literacy; pp. 28–31 (La Boca Twilight illustrations): Linhan Ye/Simply Literacy.

Every effort has been made to trace and acknowledge copyright. However, if any infringement has occurred, the publishers tender their apologies and invite the copyright holders to contact them.

Nelson Literacy Directions
NLD Level: 11
Reading Age: 10.4–10.7
Text Type: Procedure

Text © 2013 Simply Literacy Limited
Illustrations © 2013 Simply Literacy Limited

Copyright Notice
This Work is copyright. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without prior written permission of the Publisher. Except as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, for example any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, subject to certain limitations. These limitations include: Restricting the copying to a maximum of one chapter or 10% of this book, whichever is greater; Providing an appropriate notice and warning with the copies of the Work disseminated; Taking all reasonable steps to limit access to these copies to people authorised to receive these copies; Ensuring you hold the appropriate Licences issued by the Copyright Agency Limited ("CAL"), supply a remuneration notice to CAL and pay any required fees.

ISBN 978 0 17 022935 7

Cengage Learning Australia
Level 7, 80 Dorcas Street
South Melbourne, Victoria Australia 3205
Phone: 1300 790 853

Cengage Learning New Zealand
Unit 4B Rosedale Office Park
331 Rosedale Road, Albany, North Shore NZ 0632
Phone: 0800 449 725

For learning solutions, visit **cengage.com.au**

Printed in China by 1010 Printing International Ltd
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 17 16 15 14 13

So DRAMATIC!

For teachers' inspection ONLY



Dear Reader

While watching great dramatic performances, I enjoy observing actors who manage to skilfully transform themselves into their character and deliver a performance that's believable and entertaining. Sometimes, actors are so good that you almost feel like you have been transported to the time and place where the performance is set.

> "ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE AND ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN MERELY PLAYERS ..."
>
> WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

My sincere thanks to the NLD authors for allowing their books to be adapted for this book:

John Parsons, Christchurch, New Zealand

Stella Santa Cruz, Melbourne, Australia

All great dramatic actors need well-written scripts and, in Chapters 4–7, you'll get some practical guidance on how to write an entertaining comedy script, a script for a TV advertisement, a musical comedy script and an adaptation of a book for a stage performance.

Have fun using these ideas to write your own scripts!

Sharon Parsons

NELSON CENGAGE Learning
For learning solutions, visit **cengage.com.au**

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Contents

So DRAMATIC!

1 **The Early History of Drama**

Since the earliest times, audiences have enjoyed dramatic spectacles. page 4

2 **Shakespeare, So Dramatic**

Even with his talent for words, this playwright still had to invent his own! page 6

3 **Improvisation and Italian Comedy**

Sometimes, not having a script can make performances even sharper! page 12

4 **How to Adapt Comedy Writing for Performance**

With adaptation, and a few actors, the humour of a book can come to life. page 15



5 **Performing a Musical Comedy**

Some written verses are better – and funnier – performed aloud. page 20



For teachers' inspection ONLY

6 Writing a Script for a TV Advertisement

Effective TV advertisements can be scripted by using different characters from the same story. page 24

7 Adapting a Book for a Stage Performance

Lighting and sound effects help convey the mood and emotion of scenes from a book. page 28

Index and Glossary page 32

1 The Early History of Drama

For teachers' inspection ONLY

What Is Drama?

The word "drama" has an ancient Greek origin. It originally meant "deed" or "action", but came to refer to deeds and actions presented in a theatrical setting.

Ancient Greek Drama

In ancient Greece, drama was an important way for actors (usually male) to express their impressions of people in society, via three main dramatic genres: comedy, tragedy and satyr plays.

Greek Comedies

Ancient Greek comedies could be likened to modern stand-up comedies. They were plays written and performed to mock the vanity and foolishness of people in power.

Greek Tragedy

In plays of tragedy, the ancient Greeks depicted themes that are still important in dramatic performances today. Tragedies explore how people relate to one another in all kinds of situations, and may involve a range of emotions, such as love, loss, happiness, sadness and excitement. Tragedies almost always have sad endings, and today people believe that this is so the audience leaves the play feeling that their own lives are good in comparison to the suffering they have seen on stage.

Greek Satyr

In Greek mythology, a satyr is a mischievous being that is half man and half goat. Ancient Greek satyr plays were short enough to be performed in between the acts of a tragedy dramatic performance. They usually made fun of the characters who were most affected by unfortunate events in the tragedy plays. Some of today's comedies are called "satires", a word derived from the same name.

Drama Today

Just as the ancient Greeks expressed themselves through drama all those years ago, dramatic performers today continue this artistic tradition. The art form of drama provides all cultures with a powerful medium through which to express themselves. Whether dramatic performances are improvised or scripted, fiction or based on fact, artistic teams (writers, actors and production crews) use the power of drama to entertain, enlighten, engage and sometimes challenge audiences.



For teachers' inspection only

Masks of Drama

A familiar symbol associated with drama is the pair of happy and sad masks, which symbolise two opposite genres – comedy and tragedy.



Happy Mask: This mask represents an ancient Greek muse, Thalia, who was named the "muse of comedy".

Sad Mask: This mask represents Melpomene, the "muse of tragedy".

Ancient Greek Mythology – Nine Muses

In Greek mythology, the muses are the nine daughters of Mnemosyne, goddess of memory, and Zeus, king of gods. Each of the muses was assigned a certain artistic, literary or scientific skill. The ancient Greeks believed that muses had powers to improve the work of artists and writers, and helped people to feel more joyful.



Thalia (muse of comedy)



Melpomene (muse of tragedy)



Terpsichore (muse of dance)

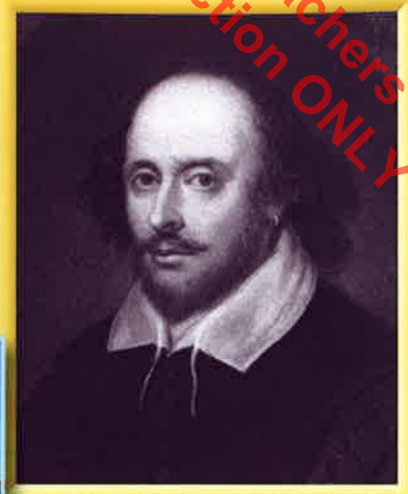


Clio (history) *Thalia (comedy)* *Erato (love poetry)* *Euterpe (music)* *Polyhymnia (hymns)* *Calliope (epic poetry)* *Terpsichore (dance)* *Urania (astronomy)* *Melpomene (tragedy)*

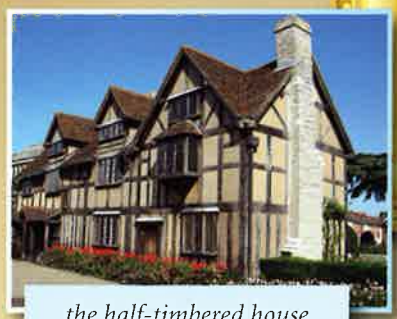
For teachers' inspection ONLY

2 Shakespeare, So Dramatic

If you asked the question, "Who is history's most famous and talented playwright of very dramatic plays?", most people would answer "William Shakespeare!" More than four hundred years after they were written, Shakespeare's plays still have universal appeal. As well as being performed on stage for hundreds of years, many of Shakespeare's plays have been adapted for movies and television. Some of the most popular Shakespearean plays include *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



William Shakespeare (1564–1616)



the half-timbered house in Stratford-upon-Avon where Shakespeare was born

William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare, who was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in England, lived from 1564 to 1616. He began his career in the theatre as an actor. In collaboration with fellow actors, he formed successful theatre groups and built theatres. It is uncertain how many plays he actually wrote because of poor record keeping at that time, but it is generally accepted that he wrote at least 37 plays – 17 comedies (including *Twelfth Night* and *Much Ado About Nothing*); 10 tragedies (including *Macbeth* and *King Lear*); and 10 histories (including *Henry V* and *Richard III*).

THE BARD

William Shakespeare is often referred to as "the Bard", in recognition of his great contribution to poetry. "Bard" means "poet".



a Shakespearean sonnet

Shakespeare's impressive body of literary works also includes many poems and sonnets (a form of poetry), and records show that he wrote these poetic forms before his plays. He wrote around two plays a year between 1594 and 1611. During his lifetime, Shakespeare's plays were very popular and he became a wealthy man.



William Shakespeare's signature

History

William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare's exact date of birth is unknown. Records show that he was christened on 26 April 1564, which means he would have been born shortly before that date. He died on 23 April 1616. Because of the uncertainty of his birth date, Shakespeare's birthday is officially celebrated on 23 April.

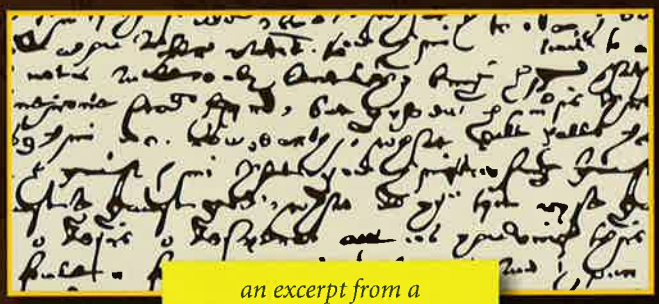
A Famous Shakespearean Quote

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.

For teachers' inspection ONLY

MEANING OF THE QUOTE

This quote is in Act 2 of one of Shakespeare's plays, *As You Like It*, and is often quoted when describing people's roles in life.



an excerpt from a Shakespearean manuscript

Deciphering Shakespeare's Plays

William Shakespeare lived in England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Elizabethan English, the language of those times, was written and spoken differently to the version of English used today. In Shakespeare's time, most people only had a vocabulary of about 500 words, and there were only 24 letters in the alphabet. There were also different spelling rules and ways of expressing language, which explains why it is not always easy to decipher and understand the language of Shakespeare's works. Many modern scripts of his plays include notes to help today's readers and actors understand the writing. Although most people at the time used only a limited number of words, Shakespeare proved his masterful command of language by inventing over 1 700 new words that would better express his ideas.

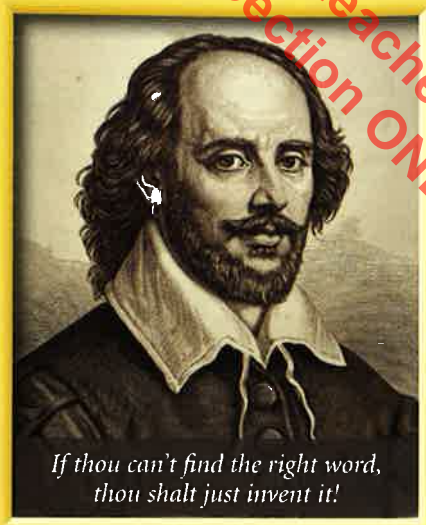


Queen Elizabeth I (1533–1603)

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Shakespearean Actors on Stage

In Elizabethan times, all professional actors were male, as it was considered inappropriate for women to perform in plays on stage. Adolescent boys were preferred for female characters, because their voices were higher and they were smaller than the adult men, so when they wore make-up and costumes, they looked and sounded somewhat like women. It wasn't until after King Charles II came to the throne in 1660 that this rule in theatre was changed to allow women to perform, too.



If thou can't find the right word, thou shalt just invent it!



Russian actors perform a scene from one of Shakespeare's famous tragedies, Hamlet



a sculptor's impression of Juliet in Verona, Italy

the famous balcony, claimed to be at Juliet's house in Verona, Italy

History

Archaeologists Find Shakespearean Theatre

In 2012, the remains of the Curtain Theatre, where Shakespeare's plays were performed in 1597 and 1598, were uncovered. A site in north-east London was being excavated for development when the chance discovery was made. Shakespearean experts believe that plays such as Romeo and Juliet and Henry V premiered at the Curtain Theatre, which makes this archaeological find even more significant. The developers of the site will now redraw their building plans to preserve the theatre's remains and allow the public to see them.

WHEREFORE ART THOU, JULIET?



Shakespeare's tragic play *Romeo and Juliet* is also seen as one of his most romantic. Every year, people from all over the world send letters addressed to "Dear Juliet" in Verona, Italy. There, a dedicated group of women respond to millions of love letters.

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Shakespeare's Globe Theatre

Shakespeare's theatre company, The Lord Chamberlain's Men, built the Globe Theatre in London, the UK, in 1598–1599. The Globe was a circular, three-storey high, open-air theatre with a seating capacity of about 3 000. It was common for Elizabethan theatres to have this shape. And where were the most expensive seats? Not in the front row or high up in the dress circle, but in the balconies right beside the stage. By sitting in that position, people could see the play up close and also be seen by others!

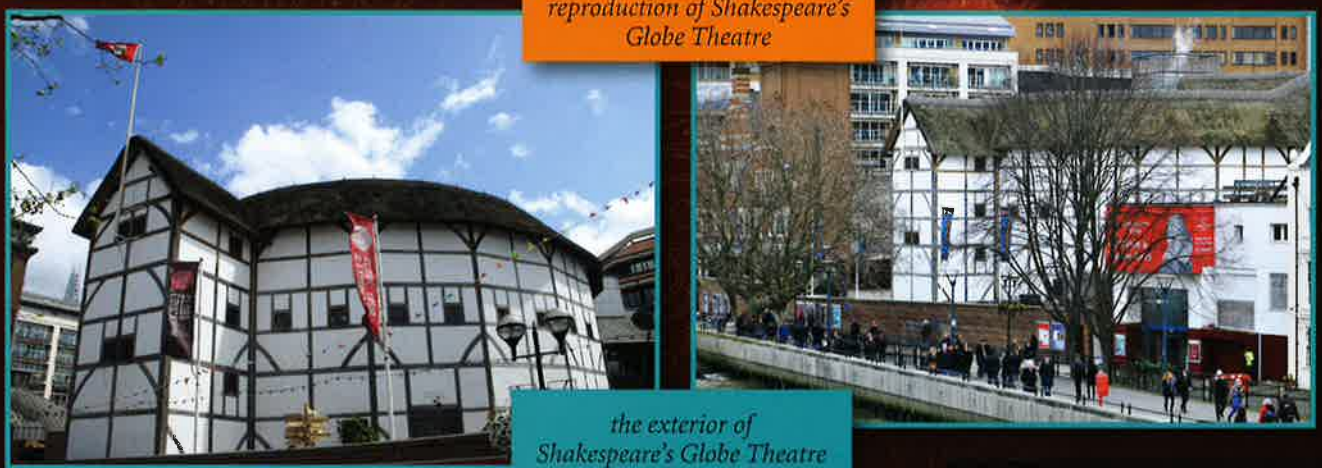
Early theatres like the Globe were prone to fire because they were built of flammable materials, like timber frames and thatched roofs. The Globe Theatre burned down in 1613. It was rebuilt by 1614, but was then demolished in 1644. In 1997, a modern-day reproduction of the Globe Theatre was built on the banks of the River Thames in London. Today, this arts centre showcases Shakespeare's unique body of work in stage performances and educational events.



the entrance to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London



inside the modern-day reproduction of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre



the exterior of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre