

Brunswick School Department  
E.L.A.  
Grade 12: From Page to Stage:  
Understanding Shakespeare

**Course Overview**

Focusing on the Bard’s poetry and prose, students will study Shakespeare’s biography, sonnets and plays in depth. Students will read, annotate, perform and view each genre of Shakespeare’s dramatic works— including at least one comedy, tragedy, romance and history play.

**Essential Understandings**

- Shakespeare’s work is timeless (because of his characters and innovative use of language).
- There is mystery surrounding the life and biography of William Shakespeare, contributing to his allure and enduring relevance.
- Shakespeare was heavily influenced by both history and the times in which he lived.
- Shakespeare borrowed heavily from other authors and playwrights and has influenced all writing in the English language.
- There are common tropes connecting all of Shakespeare’s dramatic works
- There are distinct features about both his dramatic format and sonnet structure.
- The First Folio (1623) is considered one of the most influential books of all time and changed the way we read and understand Shakespeare’s canon.
- Scholars, biographers, writers and students continue to speculate about the life, work and enduring influence of Shakespeare, the world’s most famous writer.

**Priority Standards and Performance Indicators**

(as based on Maine Learning Results)

**P.S ELA-2 Reading Analysis: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.**

- a. Evaluate the relevant themes and synthesize how they are present in the novel in oral and written responses.

- b. Interpret the implications of setting and circumstance.
- c. Analyze the role of characters in the plot in oral and written responses.
- d. Analyze important quotations from the text in oral and written responses.
- e. Annotate the text.

**P.S ELA-3 Reading Craft and Structure Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text in which the rhetoric is particularly effective, analyzing how style and content contribute to the power, persuasiveness or beauty of a text.**

- b. Analyze the plot and/or design of the text, following shifts in time and place.

**P.S ELA-4 Writing Analysis: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.**

- e. Apply the standards of English conventions.
- g. Create a Works Cited for evidence used.

**P.S. ELA-6 Research- based Writing: Compose research- based writing to examine a topic through the selection, organization, analysis, and synthesis of relevant content.**

- a. Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources.
- b. Assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience.
- e. Select and limit an appropriate topic.
- g. Prepare an outline and multiple drafts.
- i. Write a strong introduction and conclusion.
- j. Include precise, effective quotations that directly correspond to the main idea.

**P.S. ELA-7 Speaking and Listening: Engage effectively in well-reasoned exchange of ideas**

- a. Attentively listen to the words of a speaker.
- c. Defend, refute, or challenge the ideas of others.
- d. Use evidence to support a position.
- f. Use annotations of the text to contribute to class discussion.

### **Examples of Formative / Summative Assessments**

- Independent and in-class reading
- In-class discussions
- In-class performances
- Timed in-class writing
- Extended take-home writing
- Annotating text (regular book checks)
- Presentations

- Quizzes and tests
- Language practice and word games
- Dramatic re-enactments
- Memorization and recitation activities
- Spot quotation and passage identification
- Scansion
- Research paper
- Literary analysis
- Film and stage analysis
- Rhetorical analysis
- Comparative essay
- Personal essay
- Review/response paper
- Argumentative essay

### **Sample Texts and Materials/Resources**

- Sonnets (154 in the Cycle)
- *King Lear* (tragedy)
- *Othello* (tragedy)
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (comedy)
- *Much Ado About Nothing* (comedy)
- *Twelfth Night* (comedy)
- *The Tempest* (romance)
- *The Winter's Tale* (romance)
- *Richard III* (history)
- *Henry V* (history), all by William Shakespeare
- Selections by Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson, Sir Philip Sidney, Sir Walter Raleigh and other contemporaries of Shakespeare
- *Will in the World* by Stephen Greenblatt
- *Shakespeare* by Peter Ackroyd
- *A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare* by James Shapiro
- *Contested Will* by James Shapiro
- *Where There's A Will, There's A Way* by Laurie Maguire
- *The Year of Lear: Shakespeare in 1606* by James Shapiro
- *The Riverside Shakespeare, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*, G. Blakemore Evans and J.J.M. Tobin (editors)
- *Shakespeare Lexicon and Quotation Dictionary* by Alexander Schmidt
- *Shakespeare: The World as Stage* by Bill Bryson