



## Azyzah Theatre

### II Shakespeare Tragedies Back to Back : Macbeth and Romeo & Juliet

\*Student/Teacher Pack – Exercises (After the Performance)\*

We recommend reading the show summary to prepare students for the play. After the show, the exercises can be completed. Student actors will receive the full script and a recording of their lines to practice. On performance day, they may use their lines, but it's best if they have them memorized.

This pack includes lesson plans for the adapted interactive performance of Macbeth and Romeo & Juliet. The lessons supplement the show for students in years-grades 5–9 and can be adjusted to suit each level as needed.

For guidance on the lessons, contact Azyzah Theatre.

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#### Contact:

Vanessa Gendron ( Director, Creator)

tel. (+420) 608 454 655

email. [Vanessa@azyzah.com](mailto:Vanessa@azyzah.com)

[www.azyzah.com](http://www.azyzah.com)



#### FOCUS

Our goal is to help students understand the basics of Macbeth and Romeo & Juliet.

#### Supporting materials include:

- \*Shakespeare's Influence on Our Culture
- \*Reading Comprehension
- \*Multiple choice
- \*Discussion Questions
- \*Oral Expression
- \*Creative Writing

## **Culture Shakespeare**

### Basic History of Shakespeare and His Importance

#### **Who was William Shakespeare?**

William Shakespeare (1564–1616) was an English writer and actor. He is known as one of the greatest writers in the history of the English language. He was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, England, and wrote plays and poems that are still famous today. Shakespeare wrote more than 39 plays and over 150 poems called sonnets.

#### **What kind of plays did he write?**

Shakespeare wrote three main types of plays:

1. Tragedies – These are sad stories about people who face problems and often end badly (e.g., Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet).
2. Comedies – These are funny and happy stories with problems that work out in the end (e.g., A Midsummer Night's Dream, Twelfth Night).
3. Histories – These are stories about kings and historic events in England (e.g., Henry V, Richard III).

#### **Why is Shakespeare important?**

##### *1. His Stories Are Universal:*

Shakespeare's plays talk about themes like love, ambition, jealousy, betrayal, and family, which are still important to people today.

*2. He Shaped the English Language:* Shakespeare invented many new words and phrases that are still used in English today. For example, phrases like break the ice and wild goose chase, come from his plays!

*3. His Characters Feel Real:* Shakespeare's characters are full of emotions, thoughts, and feelings that many people can relate to, even after 400 years.

*4. Cultural Influence:* His works have inspired movies, books, art, and music all over the world. Many famous stories, like \*The Lion King\*, are based on Shakespeare's ideas!

#### **Fun Facts About Shakespeare:**

- He lived during the Elizabethan Era, a time when Queen Elizabeth I ruled England.
- His plays were performed in a theater called \*The Globe\* in London.
- He never went to university, but he became famous through his poetry and plays.
- He died at age 52 and is buried in his hometown, Stratford-upon-Avon.
- wrote 39 plays-154 sonnets

## **Why Should We Read Shakespeare?**

Even though Shakespeare's English sounds old and difficult, his stories and ideas teach us a lot about people and life. By reading Shakespeare, we can also learn more about English and improve our language skills!

### **William Shakespeare used three main styles in his works:**

#### **1. Verse (Poetry)**

- Shakespeare often wrote in iambic pentameter, a rhythm with 10 syllables per line where every second syllable is stressed. This style gave his language a musical quality.

- Example: From *Romeo and Juliet*:

"But, soft! what light through yonder window breaks?"

#### **2. Prose (Ordinary Speech)**

- Prose is everyday language without a specific rhythm or structure. Shakespeare used this style for comic characters, casual conversations, or to show the simplicity of certain characters.

- Example: From *\*As You Like It\**:

"The more pity that fools may not speak wisely what wise men do foolishly."

#### **3. Rhyme**

- Shakespeare occasionally used rhyming couplets (two lines that rhyme) for dramatic effect, particularly at the end of scenes or speeches.

- Example: From *\*A Midsummer Night's Dream\**:

"The course of true love never did run smooth.

So quick bright things come to confusion soon."

These different styles allowed Shakespeare to convey emotions and ideas in various ways, making his work vibrant and versatile.

# **Macbeth**

## **Reading Comprehension**

### **Title: Understanding Macbeth**

**Instructions:** This exercise is about the main story of Macbeth. Read the short summary of the play below and answer the questions. Try your best! If you need help, ask a teacher or classmate.

### **Summary of Macbeth**

Macbeth is a brave soldier who fights for the king of Scotland, Duncan. After a battle, three witches tell Macbeth that he will become king one day. This makes Macbeth very curious and ambitious. His wife, Lady Macbeth, encourages him to kill King Duncan so that he can take the throne.

Macbeth kills the king, but he starts to feel guilty and scared. To protect himself, he kills more people. He becomes paranoid and starts to lose trust in everyone, even his closest friends.

Meanwhile, Duncan's son, Malcolm, and another soldier, Macduff, plan to fight Macbeth and take back the throne. At the end of the story, Macduff fights Macbeth and kills him. Malcolm becomes the new king of Scotland, and peace is restored.

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## **Macbeth \* Comprehension Multiple choice**

**Instructions:** Read the question carefully and select the correct answer.

**1. Who was Macbeth fighting for at the beginning of the story?\***

- A) Himself
- B) King Duncan
- C) The witches
- D) Macduff

**2. What did the three witches tell Macbeth? Why did this make him ambitious?\***

- A) He would become very rich.
- B) He would become king one day.
- C) He would live forever as a soldier.
- D) He would lose his power.

**3. Who encouraged Macbeth to kill King Duncan? Why did she do this?\***

- A) The witches, because they wanted chaos.
- B) Lady Macbeth, because she wanted him to be king.
- C) Macduff, because he was jealous of Duncan.
- D) Malcolm, because he wanted Macbeth's help.

**4. What happened to Macbeth after he killed the king? How did he feel?\***

- A) He felt happy and powerful.
- B) He felt guilty and scared.
- C) He felt nothing at all.
- D) He became kinder and more trusting.

**5. Who fought against Macbeth in the end? What happened to him?\***

- A) Malcolm, and Macbeth killed him.
- B) Macduff, and he killed Macbeth.
- C) Lady Macbeth, and she defeated him.
- D) The witches, and they cursed him.

**6. At the end of the story, who becomes the new king of Scotland?\***

- A) Macbeth
- B) Macduff
- C) Malcolm
- D) Lady Macbeth

## **Macbeth \* Discussion Questions**

1. Do you think Macbeth would have killed the king without the witches' prophecy? Why or why not?
  
2. Do you feel sorry for Macbeth? Why or why not?
  
3. What lesson do you think we can learn from this story?

## **Macbeth Oral Expression – Creative writing**

Imagine you are a reporter in Macbeth's castle.

Write a short news story about the death of King Duncan or Macbeth's downfall. Use three or four simple sentences to explain what happened.

## **Macbeth \* Creative Writing Exercise**

**Title:** Imagine You Are a Character in Macbeth

**Instructions:** Imagine you are one of the characters in \*Macbeth\* (Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Banquo, or even one of the witches). Write a short diary entry (5-6 sentences) about something that happened in the story.

### **Ideas to help you get started:**

- If you are Macbeth, write about how you feel after hearing the witches' prophecy.
- If you are Lady Macbeth, write about what you are thinking after convincing Macbeth to kill King Duncan.
- If you are Banquo, write about your feelings when you see Macbeth become king.
- If you are one of the witches, write about your next plan for Macbeth.

### **Example Starter:**

\_"I am Macbeth, and my heart is heavy. The witches said I will be king, but how will that happen? The idea of killing King Duncan frightens me, but now I can't stop thinking about it. Should I listen to my ambition or keep my loyalty to the king I serve?"\_

This short exercise encourages students to think from a character's point of view while using simple, accessible language.

## **Romeo and Juliet**

### **Reading Comprehension**

**Title:** Understanding Romeo and Juliet

**Instructions:** This exercise is based on the main story of \*Romeo and Juliet\*. Read the short summary of the play below and answer the questions. Try your best! If you need help, ask a teacher or classmate!

### **Summary of Romeo and Juliet**

Romeo and Juliet is a tragic love story set in Verona, Italy. Romeo, a young man from the Montague family, falls in love with Juliet, a young woman from the Capulet family. However, their families are bitter enemies and do not want them to be together.

Despite the feud, Romeo and Juliet secretly get married with the help of Friar Laurence, who hopes their union will bring peace. However, their happiness is short-lived. After a fight, Romeo kills Juliet's cousin, Tybalt, and is banished from Verona.

Juliet's parents try to force her to marry another man, so she seeks Friar Laurence's help. The Friar gives her a sleeping potion that makes her appear dead, hoping to reunite her with Romeo. Tragically, Romeo does not receive the message explaining this plan. Believing Juliet is truly dead, he takes poison and dies. When Juliet wakes up and sees Romeo dead, she also takes her own life.

In the end, the deaths of Romeo and Juliet bring the Montague and Capulet families together in grief, and they finally end their fighting.



## **Romeo and Juliet \* Comprehension Multiple Choice**

Instructions: Read the question carefully and select the correct answer.

### **1. Where does the story of Romeo and Juliet take place?**

- A) London
- B) Verona
- C) Paris
- D) Venice

### **2. Why couldn't Romeo and Juliet be together?**

- A) They lived in different cities.
- B) Their families were enemies.
- C) Juliet did not love Romeo back.
- D) Romeo was already married.

### **3. Who helped Romeo and Juliet get married secretly?**

- A) Juliet's parents
- B) Mercutio
- C) Friar Laurence
- D) Tybalt

### **4. Why was Romeo banished from Verona?**

- A) For marrying Juliet
- B) For refusing to fight
- C) For killing Tybalt
- D) For running away

### **5. What was Friar Laurence's plan to help Juliet?**

- A) He gave her a sleeping potion to fake her death.
- B) He told her to run away with Romeo.
- C) He asked her parents to forgive Romeo.
- D) He hid her in the church until Romeo returned.

### **6. Why did Romeo kill himself?**

- A) He thought Juliet was dead.
- B) He was afraid of Tybalt's family.
- C) He was tired of the feud between their families.
- D) He felt guilty about the fight.

### **7. What happened to Juliet when she saw Romeo dead?**

- A) She left Verona and never returned.
- B) She married Paris.
- C) She forgave her parents.
- D) She took her own life.

## **Romeo and Juliet \* Discussion Questions**

1. Do you think Romeo and Juliet's love was real, or were they just acting on impulse? Why?
2. How might the story have ended differently if their families supported their love?
3. What can we learn from the tragedy of Romeo and Juliet about family conflict?

## **Romeo and Juliet Oral Expression**

Imagine you are a reporter in Verona.

Write a short news story about the tragedy of Romeo and Juliet. Use three or four simple sentences to describe what happened.

## **Romeo and Juliet \* Creative Writing Exercise**

**Title:** Imagine You Are a Character in Romeo and Juliet

**Instructions:** Imagine you are one of the characters in \*Romeo and Juliet\* (Romeo, Juliet, Tybalt, Friar Laurence, or even the Nurse). Write a short diary entry (5-6 sentences) about something that happened in the story.

*Examples:*

- If you are Romeo, write about how you felt when you first saw Juliet.
- If you are Juliet, write about your thoughts after meeting Romeo at the balcony.
- If you are Tybalt, describe your feelings toward Romeo and why you wanted to fight him.

## **Answer Key for Macbeth General Comprehension Exercise: Multiple Choice Questions**

1. B) King Duncan
2. B) He would become king one day.
3. B) Lady Macbeth, because she wanted him to be king.
4. B) He felt guilty and scared.
5. B) Macduff, and he killed Macbeth.
6. C) Malcolm\*\*Answer Key:\*\*

## **Answer Key for Romeo and Juliet General Comprehension Exercise: Multiple Choice Questions**

1. B) Verona
2. B) Their families were enemies
3. C) Friar Laurence
4. C) For killing Tybalt
5. A) He gave her a sleeping potion to fake her death
6. A) He thought Juliet was dead
7. D) She took her own life