



FRANCIS HOLLAND
SLOANE SQUARE

Shakespeare Extensions and Discussions

Dear parents and guardians,

As Year 7, 8 and 9 are studying Shakespeare texts, as an extension to their learning, and if you would like to support your daughters in their learning, some additional resources, discussion and writing tasks, and short videos are here:

1. Elizabethan England.
 - [Why was London the centre of the Elizabethan world? | History - Elizabethan England - YouTube](#)
 - The Elizabethan era, 1580-1603 - The Elizabethans overview - OCR B - GCSE History Revision - OCR B - BBC Bitesize
 - [A Time Traveller's Guide to Elizabethan England](#) by Ian Mortimer is an excellent book: well-written, funny and informative. It's a little challenging for most Year 7 readers but it would be useful to have at home, and read together. We also have a reference copy in Room 2.
2. William Shakespeare: [William Shakespeare Animated Biography - YouTube](#)
3. The Globe Theatre: if you could visit the Globe (or even to walk past the outside), it would be wonderful. We had hoped to take some of our students to The Globe but finding a time and date didn't work for some texts and year groups. Or, even better, you could do a walking tour!

[Shakespeare's Walking Tour | Guided Tours](#)

[The Globe](#)

[Shakespeare's Globe Theatre: The History You Need To Know \(nosweatshakespeare.com\)](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1rbtHchv1g&ab_channel=BBCTeach

Suggested general discussion questions (or optional writing tasks):

1. If you could time travel, what do you think you would find in Elizabethan England?
Think of all five senses:
 - What would you be able to smell? How would food taste? Which foods would be available?
 - What would you see? How might the Thames look? How many bridges were there then?
 - What kinds of beds might you sleep on? How would clothing feel? What about shoes?
 - What might you be able to hear?
2. Why is it called 'Elizabethan England'? What was the reigning monarch like? Who took over from Elizabeth and why is that relevant to Shakespeare and his plays?
3. What was the subsequent era called? What was that monarch like?
4. How might your experience of a play change if you have to:
 - stand for three hours in front of the stage
 - sit on a hard bench
 - be at one side or obscured by a pillar?
5. Why do you think Shakespeare's plays are still studied today?
6. Write a story (or discuss and plan one) about witches, ghosts, forbidden love, ambition, jealousy or any of the other elements of a Shakespearian comedy or tragedy.