

Pre – Shakespeare Survey

Name _____

Section _____

1. What are the first words that come to your mind when you hear the word Shakespeare?

2. What are the first thoughts that come to your mind when you hear that we will be reading Macbeth in class?

3. What Shakespearean plays have you read in school? Read on your own? Seen performed?

4. During what time period was Shakespeare writing?

5. What do you find most difficult about studying Shakespeare?

6. What do you find most enjoyable? Least enjoyable?

7. Describe your best experience in the past with Shakespeare.

8. Describe your worst experience in the past with Shakespeare.

9. Why do you think Shakespeare's plays are taught in high schools today?

10. What kinds of plays is Shakespeare known for?

Identify the following:

- a) Globe Theater
- b) Stratford on Avon
- c) Anne Hathaway
- d) Holinshed Chronicles
- e) sonnets

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1. What are the first words that come to your mind when you hear the word Shakespeare?
Complicated, confusion, death family blood. I don't understand double entendre. Romeo and Juliet, tragedy and 5 act plays. Plays, England, tragedies. Sonnets. Green-eyed monster, death. Jealousy. English class, confusion, reading a lot at home. Boring, old irrelevant. Poetry, Romance, love. Romeo and Juliet. Old. Difficult. Death, sex, love. Confusing death, difficult to understand. Nuisance. Hard. Say wha?

2. What are the first thoughts that come to your mind when you hear that we will be reading Macbeth in class?

"not Shakespeare again!" I don't want to read aloud because I can't pronounce the words. I hate the projects that go along with reading Shakespeare. I have no idea what the story is. I got nervous because I am not really a Shakespeare fan and I had trouble with it last year and the year before. I'm just happy to be reading an actual book. I'm glad we're going to read Shakespeare. I like his plots. A confusing story that can easily be solved but will end up in death. Why oh why can't we skip it and read something else. Something interesting. Yay! I love Shakespeare! I'm going to enjoy this!

I will have a lot of homework. I like reading Romeo and Juliet and Othello. Witches and bad luck. This will be interesting and long. I've heard of that! Oh no! Not Shakespeare again! When will this be over? I thought this was American literature.

3. What Shakespearean plays have you read in school? Read on your own? Seen performed?

Othello, Romeo and Juliet

4. During what time period was Shakespeare writing?

1600's. 1500's Renaissance 1400's

5. What do you find most difficult about studying Shakespeare?

Language. language . old language. Words. Understanding what they are saying and getting interested enough to keep reading. Absorbing the language while I read it. The words are kind of old fashioned and the word order is sometimes different from what we are used to. Language. Decoding the language.

Reading the book alone, overnight. Too hard, too boring too much like death. Double entendres. I don't see them right away. Words and meanings. Words and pronunciation. Diction. Comprehending that the characters are trying to say.

6. What do you find most enjoyable?

Plot I think the love story parts are really cute. Performing it, reading it aloud with the class. The stories are really engrossing and enjoyable. I actually enjoy studying Shakespeare – a rarity for a 16 year old. The plots. Double entendres.

I liked everything about the way Mrs. Caswell taught Othello. I like reading Shakespeare. Class discussions. The flowery speech. The storyline – the plot. The storylines themselves are enjoyable.
Least enjoyable?

Language, the double entendres and where everyone dies. I don't like Shakespeare vocabulary lists. Reading it by myself. I don't like the words so much. Decoding the language. Reading it alone. Interpreting difficult or confusing lines. Not understanding certain meanings. I hate studying every bit of his work. Figuring out what he means. Reading it by myself.

7. Describe your best experience in the past with Shakespeare.

Performing scenes from Romeo and Juliet

Performing Emilia's monologue from Othello

It's fun to write couplets. Memorizing monologues. Watching Shakespeare movies.

I like how Mrs. S-C did Romeo and Juliet. Every time I finish the book, I get to throw it away and never see it again. Reading Romeo and Juliet because I like romantic books. When you finish the book you realize that you understood the book. Also the monologue was fun to do. I like reading Romeo and Juliet. Watching the characters die off. Danny and me performing in tights! Watching movies relating to Shakespeare because it was easier to understand.

8. Describe your worst experience in the past with Shakespeare.

Worst experience is having to write a paper about it

Performing Romeo and Juliet with my group – they kept jumping lines.

People laughed when we saw Othello and Desdemona got slapped. Also. We heard Othello on tape. It made me drowsy. I didn't like how Mrs. C. drones on and on.

Trying to read the play for homework and having to write a response journal about it. Going to see Othello..

My worst experience was making a "bookmark" for Romeo and Juliet. We had to go back into the text and find five examples of almost twenty different things like word order in Shakespeare's time. Analysis and finding themes. Nothing in particular. Memorizing things.

9. Why do you think Shakespeare's plays are taught in high schools today?

Same dilemmas before us now

Gets you to look more deeply into a complicated text

Shakespeare is classic. Shows the evolution of English.

Because he is a huge part of the history of literature.

Because they are timeless, well written and classic.

Because he is a world know playwright. To keep history alive.

To attempt to make us cultures.

They are classics. They have themes and meaning. I think it's trying to teach us to understand and interpret a different kind of language. Probably because he was supposed

to be brilliant. Because it was so different from its time and it has such rich history. Why not? They are part of history, have underlying theme. Because they are classic works of literature.

10. What kinds of plays is Shakespeare known for?

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