What is important to know in studying Shakespeare?

Shakespeare Research

Language Arts I Honors

**Standard 4: Research and Reasoning**

1. Integrate information from different sources to research and complete a project.

**Discover:**

To build relevant and interesting background knowledge for our study of *Romeo and Juliet*, you will be researching ONE of the topics listed below to become the official “expert” on the topic. Then, you will teach others in the class about your topic. The topics:

1. William Shakespeare:What information is important to know about the man who wrote the play?
2. Elizabethan England/Renaissance: What is important to know about the time period in which the play was written? What influence did the politics, queens/kings, and religion play in developing the culture of theatre and this play?
3. Renaissance theatre/The Globe: What characterized theatre during this time period? How was it different from theatre in the Middle Ages? What important things should we know?
4. Tips for reading Shakespeare’s language: What useful strategies should we keep in mind when we read this play? What will help us understand and highlight the essence of the drama?
5. Shakespeare’s influence on contemporary times: How has Shakespeare’s work influenced contemporary (of our time) productions of movies, music, and other literature? What pieces might we recognize, and how do they adapt/modify the stories of Shakespeare’s plays?

**Step 1: Discover information on your topic through research**

1. See the back of this sheet for resources to use in taking your notes.
2. Take 5-10 key notes on your topic that you can share with others. Use at least one source.

**Step 2: Create and *write* a Works Cited page for your source.** Remember the following formatting instructions:

1. MLA Header
2. Double-space the whole thing
3. Hanging indent
4. Alphabetize all entries

**Step 3: Connect your background information with that of your peers**

On the second day of this research project, you will jigsaw with a group of students who each studied a different topic. You will connect all your topics to make predictions of what our Shakespeare study will include. You will complete the jigsaw graphic organizer from what your peers teach you.

**Step 4: Reflect in a paragraph**

Write an ACE paragraph to synthesize what is important to know in studying Shakespeare. Use three concrete details (from your research notes), include in-text citations to show where you got the information, and reflect in your CM on how that would affect the play and why that would be important to know and understand.

**Resources to use:**

In order to help you select valid resources, please research your topics from the following sources:

1. William Shakespeare:
   1. *Question:* What information is important to know about the man who wrote the play?
   2. *Resources:* 
      1. Read “William Shakespeare’s Life: A Genius from Stratford” from your textbook (726-727).
      2. Read “Shakespeare’s Biography” on *Shakespeare’s Resource Center* website:

<http://www.bardweb.net/man.html>

1. Elizabethan England/ Renaissance:
   1. *Questions:* What is important to know about the time period in which the play was written? What influence did the politics, queens/kings, and religion play in developing the culture of theatre and this play?
   2. *Resources:*
      1. Read the article “Religion in Elizabethan England” off the *Elizabethan Era* website; you can also ready introductory material on the main website to give you context before the earlier article. Works Cited information can be found on the “copyright information” link at the bottom of the main website page.

<http://www.elizabethan-era.org.uk/religion-elizabethan-england.htm>

* + 1. Read at least one other article on the website *Life in Elizabethan England* <http://www.elizabethan.org/compendium/home.html>

1. Renaissance theatre/The Globe:
   1. *Questions:* What characterized theatre during this time period? How was it different from theatre in the Middle Ages? What important things should we know?
   2. *Resources:* 
      1. Read “Shakespeare and His Theater: A Perfect Match” in your textbook (7280730).
      2. Read “Shakespeare’s Globe” on the *Shakespeare’s Resource Center* website: <http://www.bardweb.net/globe.html>
2. Tips for reading Shakespeare’s language:
   1. *Questions:* What useful strategies should we keep in mind when we read this play? What will help us understand and highlight the essence of the drama?
   2. *Resources:* 
      1. Read “A Quick Guide to Reading Shakespeare” from *Yahoo! Voices*.

<http://voices.yahoo.com/a-quick-guide-reading-shakespeare-6596796.html>

1. Shakespeare’s influence on contemporary times:
   1. *Questions:* How has Shakespeare’s work influenced contemporary (of our time) productions of movies, music, and other literature? What pieces might we recognize, and how do they adapt/modify the stories of Shakespeare’s plays?
   2. *Resources:* 
      1. Read “Your Definitive Guide to the Ten Best Shakespeare Movie Adapatations”

<http://www.hypable.com/2013/06/21/best-shakespeare-movie-adaptations/2/>

* + 1. Search and read for similar information on music and other literature.

Correct Works Cited Entries

1. **William Shakespeare:**

Anderson, Robert. “William Shakespeare’s Life: A Genius from Stratford.” *Elements of Literature Third Course,* Ed. Kathleen Daniel et al, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2003, Austin, Texas, pp. 726-727.

“Shakespeare’s Biography.” *Shakespeare Resource Center.* J.M. Pressley and the Shakespeare Resource Center, 1 January 2014, http://www.bardweb.net/man.html.

1. **Elizabethan England**

Alchin, Linda. “Religion in Elizabethan England.” *Elizabethan Era,* 20 March 2012, http://www.elizabethan-era.org.uk/religion-elizabethan-england.htm.

Secara, Maggie. “Religion.” *Life in Elizabethan England,*  MaggiRos, 29 March 2008, http://www.elizabethan.org/compendium/home.html.

1. **Renaissance theatre/the Globe**

Anderson, Robert. “Shakespeare and His Theater: A Perfect Match.” *Elements of Literature Third Course,* Ed. Kathleen Daniel et al, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2003, Austin, pp. 728-730.

“Shakespeare’s Globe.” *Shakespeare Resource Center.* J.M. Pressley and the Shakespeare Resource Center, 1 January 2014, http://www.bardweb.net/globe.html.

1. **Tips for reading Shakespeare**

Pressley, J.M. “A Quick Guide to Reading Shakespeare.” *Yahoo! Voices,* Yahoo Shine and Lifestyles Network, 18 August 2010. http://voices.yahoo.com/a-quick-guide-reading-shakespeare-6596796.html.

1. **Shakespeare’s influence on contemporary times**

Zimmerman, Danielle. “Your Definitive Guide to the Ten Best Shakespeare Move Adaptations.” *Hypable,* 21 June 2013, http://www.hypable.com/2013/06/21/best-shakespeare-movie-adaptations/2/.