

Lesson ideas and materials

William Shakespeare

The times

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Teaching aims

This lesson will expand the students' reading competence while also developing their language skills. Students will develop an understanding of the historic circumstances surrounding Shakespeare's life and works. They will develop a basic understanding of the plague and its impact on Elizabethan society. Students will work on their skills to compare historic events and lives with their own experiences, engaging in cognitive activation. Specifically, students will reflect on their own experience with the Covid pandemic in comparison with the plague of the Shakespearean era.

Description of materials

The following material consists of:

- Text from the Guardian by Andrew Dickson (<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2020/mar/22/shakespeare-in-lockdown-did-he-write-king-lear-in-plague-quarantine>)
- Worksheet with tasks and annotations for "Shakespeare in lockdown"
- Video of actor impersonation Shakespeare "Shakespeare ranting over lockdown": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfFXEcZmuYA> [running time: 1:27 min]
- Reading comprehension quiz on Kahoot: <https://create.kahoot.it/share/shakespeare-quiz/d0c223b8-c5e2-4414-8c94-219096e45c8f>

Overview of lesson design:

Phase / Teaching activity / Impulse	Material
Activity 1 [plenary discussion] Teacher shows a video of an actor impersonating Shakespeare. After students share their thoughts on the clip in plenary, teacher writes "Shakespeare" at the center of a mind map on the board.	Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfFXEcZmuYA



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Phase / Teaching activity / Impulse	Material
<p>Activity 2 [task 1. Individual work, task 2. partner / group work] Teacher hands out the text input about Shakespeare and the plague (Worksheet “Shakespeare during lockdown”) and explains the task.</p>	<p>WS</p>
<p>Activity 3 [plenary discussion] Teacher invites students to participate in an interactive quiz on the text. Didactic reserve: Possible teacher input for partner/group or plenary discussion (or method: two corner vote with ensuing discussion): Discuss <i>whether the bubonic plague can be compared to the Covid-pandemic?</i></p>	<p>Kahoot link: https://create.kahoot.it/share/shakespeare-quiz/d0c223b8-c5e2-4414-8c94-219096e45c8f</p>

