



SHAKESPEARE
SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

WHAT TYPE OF SHAKESPEARE PLAY ARE YOU?

Find out in five easy questions



INSTRUCTIONS

Over the course of five irreverent and, on occasion, moderately amusing questions, this resource aims to help you decide which genre of play you might like to perform for this year's Shakespeare Schools Festival.

- 1) Go through each of the questions on the following pages, answering as honestly as you can and keeping a track of each answer you give.**
- 2) At the end of the questionnaire work out which option you selected most and click on the relevant link. If you find you have a tie, have a look at both genres and see what sounds best.**
- 3) Click on the name of your chosen genre to go to our "Come, Begin" resource and find out about all the plays in the genre, as well as loads of cool ideas on how to get started.**

Most importantly: have fun! Shakespeare is wonderful and joyous and so broad. There really is something for everyone! If there's nothing in your chosen genre that you fancy, take a look in the "Come, Begin" resource and see if anything else sparks your imagination!



Q1) Your friend has been turned into a donkey and you've been caught up in an awful shipwreck (and it's not even your first shipwreck this month). Things aren't going your way at all so, naturally, you hatch a plan to turn things around, going on an adventure in the process. Where do you go?

A) You head to England in the hope of raising an army to confront the source of your problems head on.

B) You run off into a forest, where poetry hangs from the trees and things are not all as they seem.

C) You decide not to go too far at all. You have a plan, a plot, a murderous, Machiavellian scheme to gain the upper hand in this situation - just like you always do...

D) You flee to somewhere called Bohemia, not just because it sounds like a great name for a place, but because you simply can't stay here. It's just too dangerous...



Q2) Your plan goes slightly awry and you end up stranded on a desert island miles from anywhere, without any means of communication and in possession of a single object. The sort of object you wouldn't dream of leaving the house without. What is it?

A) A single, beautifully made handkerchief. Losing this would be a really bad idea...

B) A small, incredibly rare flower, just enough to produce a single drop of the most potent love potion known to man - but, then again, a single drop is all you really need...

C) A solid gold crown. It doesn't matter how weak, vulnerable or indecisive you are on this desolate island, right? You'll always have the crown...

D) A set of caskets: one gold, one silver and one lead - the perfect way to test the character of anyone you might meet here...



Q3) By some ludicrous scheme, you've managed to escape the desert island and plan an incredible night out after a REALLY long week. Do you...

A) Round up your friends and gatecrash a ball hosted by your greatest enemy. At the very least, it'll be eventful and you never know who you might meet...

B) Take a particularly dimwitted friend to the lavish mansion of your wealthy niece and party until you both get kicked out.

C) Call the rowdiest knight you know and head to the nearest pub.

D) Disguise yourself as a musician to infiltrate the dysfunctional family of a local lord in an attempt to woo his youngest daughter. Despite your so-stupid-it-might-just-work plan, you run into a problem that could scupper the whole thing - no one wants to marry her older sister...



Q4) The weekend is over. Monday rolls around again and surprise, surprise: a terrible tragedy befalls a close friend or relative. Do you...

- A) Feign madness in a bizarre and complicated scheme to catch the culprit.
- B) Fake your own death, because you're a character in a Shakespeare play and have no sense of perspective.
- C) Stand in front of an angry crowd and deliver a blistering speech condemning that tragic friend, but actually it sort of sounds like you're defending him...
- D) Spend the next 16 years pretending to have been turned to stone, in an astonishingly committed (and poorly thought-out) attempt to shame your husband into feeling guilt for this tragedy.



Q5) Despite your partying, poor judgement, terrible orientation skills and the exceptionally unfortunate company you seem to keep, you somehow rise to the very top of society. What sort of leader are you?

A) An erratic, somewhat gullible king with, at times, a remarkably short temper. The wheel will come full circle though and your mistakes will come back to haunt you...

B) A magical, powerful, almost omnipotent figure who can summon ancient spirits and create catastrophic storms on a whim. If you ever work out how to build a plane, you might even be able to escape the island you've been condemned to...

C) Giving up your heavy partying lifestyle, you become an exceptional leader: passionate, charismatic and with a natural understanding of the hopes and dreams of your people.

D) A strict authoritarian - discipline and order are everything to you. Your people probably hate you...



YOU'VE CHOSEN...

Mostly A

Mostly B

Mostly C

Mostly D

You've chosen a TRAGEDY

Congratulations - you've selected the most popular genre of all of Shakespeare's work - and it's popular for good reason! Whether you go for the psychological thriller of Hamlet or the ill-fated love story of Romeo and Juliet you're sure to have the audience in the palm of your hand from the first scene to the very last.

Click on "TRAGEDY" for great ideas on how to get started.



You've chosen a **COMEDY**

Fantastic - you've picked a broad Shakespearean genre spanning everything from the bewildered fun of Twelfth Night to the ethereal magic of A Midsummer Night's Dream. One thing's for sure though, you'll have them rolling in the aisles.

Click on "COMEDY" for great ideas on how to get started.



You've chosen a **HISTORY**

Delving deep into the past, Shakespeare's history plays often take wild detours from historical fact, but always have the audience enthralled by the high-wire maneuverings of leaders from Rome, to Agincourt, to London. You can choose from a number of thrilling history plays including Henry V and Richard III.

Click on **"HISTORY"** for great ideas on how to get started.



You've chosen a **PROBLEM PLAY**

Fancy - you've picked the genre that even world-leading Shakespeare scholars can't truly define! These plays often have a complex and fascinating blend of tragic and comedic features, making them a great watch for audiences. You can pick from a range of plays including *The Merchant of Venice*, with its famously complicated titular character and *The Winter's Tale*, with perhaps the most famous stage direction in the history of theatre!

Click on "**PROBLEM PLAY**" for great ideas on how to get started.

