

DIGITAL THEATRE+

VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

Resources for Younger Learners



From the 1200+ resources available on Digital Theatre+, we've selected the most useful for teaching English and Drama to students aged 11-14 (UK Key Stage 3 / US grades 6-8). Our selection of content includes:

- [Productions](#)
- [Graphic Novels](#)
- [Interviews, Documentaries and Workshops](#)
- [Lesson Plans and Guides](#)

This guide will help you save time planning relevant and interesting lessons for your younger students, and will mean you can confidently assign resources to your students for self-study at home.

We've structured this guide starting with a handpicked selection of our most suitable productions and their supporting resources, then listed out other age-appropriate content grouped by resource type.

Note: Only use content you feel is appropriate for the students you are teaching, our collection may include light references to adult themes.



PRODUCTIONS

Productions are a great place to start. They can be assigned to students to watch from home either in full or from a selection of key scenes.

Many of these are supported by a whole host of resources which peek behind-the-scenes, from interviews which explore creative processes to study guides which take an in-depth look at the text.

Using these resources together has the potential to enable a 360-degree learning experience, whereby students can see the staged outcome whilst getting an insight into characters, themes and language of the text.

On the following page is a list of our productions, supporting materials and why these are relevant for students aged 11-14.



THE COMEDY OF ERRORS



The Comedy of Errors – Royal Shakespeare Company ©

SUMMARY:

Give **younger students** a way into Shakespeare's canon with this **abridged version** of one of his most farcical comedies, *The Comedy of Errors*. Devised **specifically for schools and families** by the Royal Shakespeare Company in collaboration with Told by an Idiot, this adaptation uses a **pared down script**, props, live music and **physical comedy** to **convey the story**.

AGE GUIDANCE:

Suitable for all ages.

SUPPORTING RESOURCES:

Documentary:

- [About the Production: *The Comedy of Errors*](#)

Interviews:

- [Backstage: *The Comedy of Errors*](#)
- [On Design: Michael Vale](#)
- [On Directing: Paul Hunter](#)
- [On Music: Iain Johnstone](#)
- [On Rehearsal: *The Comedy of Errors*](#)

- [Q & A: *The Comedy of Errors*](#)
- [Revealed: *The Comedy of Errors*](#)

Study Guide:

- [*The Comedy of Errors* Study Guide](#)

BILLY THE KID



Billy the Kid – Unicorn Theatre ©

SUMMARY:

Billy the Kid was captured live at the **Unicorn Theatre**, who define themselves as the UK's leading professional theatre dedicated to **producing inspiring** and **invigorating** work for **young audiences**. Told through the eyes of an 80-year-old man, Michael Morpurgo's *Billy the Kid* recounts the tale of a star **footballer** (soccer player) and how the outbreak of the **Second World War** impacted his life forever.

AGE GUIDANCE:

Suitable for all ages.

SUPPORTING RESOURCES:

Interviews:

- [On Acting: Sam Donovan](#)
- [On Acting: Dudley Sutton](#)

- [On Directing: Tony Graham](#)

Study Guide:

- [Billy the Kid Study Guide](#)

HENRY V



Henry V – WillShake ©

SUMMARY:

An excellent **first introduction** to *Henry V* and its **main themes**, this **live action film** enhanced by beautiful **animation** has been **carefully abridged** and **adapted for children** and those feeling especially **daunted** by tackling Shakespeare's works. Join WillShake as he embarks on his **first journey** to share the tale of *Henry V* – a play about **growing up, becoming a man**, and becoming a **King**.

AGE GUIDANCE:

Suitable for all ages.

SUPPORTING RESOURCES:

Interviews:

- [Joe Talbot: Director and Producer](#)
- [Jonnie Kimmins: Playing WillShake](#)
- [Emily Blacksell: Producer and Script Editor](#)

- [On Screen Writing: Sally Rosser](#)

Study Guide:

- [Discovering Shakespeare: A Guide to WillShake's *Henry V*](#)

INTO THE WOODS



Into the Woods – Regent's Park Open Air Theatre ©

SUMMARY:

Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* weaves together **fairy tales young people will recognise** including *Cinderella*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Rapunzel*. A story of **family, love, growing up** and the hazy areas between **right and wrong**, this musical is sure to **appeal to all ages**.

AGE GUIDANCE:

Suitable for all ages (with parental supervision – references to sex, mild threat and violence).

SUPPORTING RESOURCES:

Interviews:

- [On Directing: Timothy Sheader](#)

Study Guide:

- [Into the Woods Study Guide](#)



OTHER SUITABLE PRODUCTIONS

- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Gran Teatre del Liceu)
 - *Alice in Wonderland* (Broadway Digital Archive)
 - *Black Magic* (Eclipse Theatre)
 - *Funny Girl* (Digital Theatre)
 - *Much Ado About Nothing* (Digital Theatre)
 - *The Importance of Being Earnest* (LA Theatre Works)
 - *The Nutcracker* (Royal Opera House)
 - *The Railway Children* (Genesisius)
 - **Shakespeare Lives in 2016:** Funded by the British Council in 2016 commemorating 400 years since Shakespeare's death. This global celebration encompassed film, theatre, dance and literature, a selection of which is listed below:
 - *A Midsummer Night's Dream: Inspired by Shakespeare's Play*
 - *Come to Me: Blues Inspired by Shakespeare's As You Like It*
 - *Dear Mister Shakespeare: Inspired by Shakespeare's Othello*
 - *Julius Caesar: Act II, Scene I*
 - *King Lear: Act II, Scene IV*
 - *Macbeth: Act I, Scene V*
 - *Miranda's Letter: A story inspired by Shakespeare's The Tempest*
 - *Shakespeare's Twelfth Night interpreted by UK Musicians*
 - *Star Cross'd: A contemporary take on Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet*
 - *The Prince of Denmark: A story vaguely inspired by Shakespeare's Hamlet*
 - *The Winter's Tale: Inspired by Shakespeare's play*
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GRAPHIC NOVELS

Similar to a ‘comic book’, the visual language of our **graphic novels** brings classic texts to life for younger students daunted by the language of literary greats including William Shakespeare and Jane Austen.

These are licensed from SelfMadeHero, a company who define themselves as a publisher of ground-breaking and beautiful work by authors and artists from across the globe, from the quirky and humorous to the political and profound.

MANGA SHAKESPEARE



Manga Shakespeare: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – SelfMadeHero ©

SUMMARY:

Defined by SelfMadeHero, these are a series of **graphic novel adaptations** of **William Shakespeare's plays**. Drawing inspiration from trend-setting Japan and using Shakespeare's original texts, this series – adapted by Richard Appignanesi and **illustrated by leading manga artists** – **brings to life** the great Bard's words for **students**, Shakespeare enthusiasts and manga fans.

AGE GUIDANCE:

Suitable for all ages (although Shakespeare includes some references to sex, violence etc).

TITLES:

- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- *As You Like It*
- *Hamlet*
- *Henry VIII*
- *Julius Caesar*
- *King Lear*
- *Macbeth*
- *The Merchant of Venice*
- *Much Ado About Nothing*
- *Othello*
- *Richard III*
- *Romeo and Juliet*
- *The Tempest*
- *Twelfth Night*

EYE CLASSICS



Pride and Prejudice – SelfMadeHero ©



SUMMARY:

A series of **graphic novel adaptations** of **classic literary texts**. Drawing inspiration from trend-setting Japan and using original texts, this series – **illustrated by leading manga artists** – brings to life the words of **Oscar Wilde, Jane Austen, Charles Dickens** and many more for students and manga enthusiasts alike.

AGE GUIDANCE:

Suitable for ages 14+ (some texts include references to violence).

TITLES:

- *Crime and Punishment*
 - *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*
 - *Pride and Prejudice*
 - *The Complete Don Quixote*
 - *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
 - *The Trial*
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INTERVIEWS, DOCUMENTARIES AND WORKSHOPS



A Frantic Assembly Warm Up – Digital Theatre ©

Our audio-visual resources including [interviews](#), [documentaries](#) and [workshops](#) will aid students in gaining additional information on interpretation, process, texts, and careers, helping them deepen and enrich their studies.

They will also give you a practical reference point to create and inspire your own engaging and dynamic lessons on key topics, themes and texts.

AGE GUIDANCE:

Suitable for all ages (some interviews reference historic acts of violence).

USEFUL RESOURCES:

- [A Frantic Assembly Warm Up](#)
- [I Will Refuse to Bubble: History and Theater as Defiance](#)
- [Lyric 360](#)
- [On Acting: Andi Potamkin](#)
- [“Surviving Surviving”](#): Irving Roth
- [This Island’s Mine](#)
- [My West End](#): A unique eight-part series created which shines a light on the backstage practitioners who work on some of the UK’s biggest shows revealing possibilities for young people to be a part



of the next generation of technical, production, and venue teams.
Interviews include:

- [**My West End: An Insight into Working in Millinery**](#)
 - [**My West End: An Insight into Working in Stage Management**](#)
 - [**My West End: An Insight into Working as Head of Wigs and Make Up**](#)
 - [**My West End: An Insight into Working in Theatre Management**](#)
 - [**My West End: An Insight into Working as Head of Wardrobe**](#)
 - [**My West End: An Insight into Working in Stage Operations**](#)
 - [**My West End: An Insight into Working as Stage Door Keeper**](#)
 - [**My West End: An Insight into Working as a Lighting Designer**](#)
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LESSON PLANS AND GUIDES



Drama Plans – DramaWorks ©

Our lesson plans and guides take the pressure off you as you plan lessons and workshops.

DramaWorks' plans by Jeni Whittaker are designed especially for students aged 11-14 and include games, teaching instructions, exercises and examination preparation.

Our guides and catalogues point you to our most useful resources on the platform in the study of particular subjects and texts.

AGE GUIDANCE:

Suitable for all ages.

USEFUL RESOURCES:

- [Drama Plans – Year 7 \(equivalent to US Grade 6\)](#)
- [Drama Plans – Year 8 \(equivalent to US Grade 7\)](#)
- [Drama Plans – Year 9 \(equivalent to US grade 8\)](#)
- [US Shakespeare Play Guide](#)
- [UK Shakespeare Play Guide](#)
- [US Drama/Theatre Subject Guide](#)
- [UK Drama/Theatre Subject Guide](#)

