

Shakespeare: The Comedies

Semesters: 1

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students investigate Shakespeare's history as a man, actor, poet and playwright. Then, they identify, analyze and discuss common elements of his comedies, including iambic pentameter, five act structure, supernatural occurrences, stock characters, and harmonious union. Additionally, students identify, analyze, and discuss common themes, such as the importance of love, the power of language, the difference between appearance and reality, and the power of dreams and illusions. Students review and discuss excerpts from Shakespeare's comedies and review summaries of these works. Upon completion of the course, students will submit an analysis of a film adaptation of professional performance of a Shakespearian comedy.

Course Competencies

Shakespeare: The Comedies	
Competency 1	Develop an understanding of Shakespeare's background.
Sub-Topics	1. Examine Shakespeare's personal history at Stratford-upon-Avon. 2. Review his acting career with the King's Company, his composition of sonnets, and his role in the Globe Theatre. 3. Investigate the era in which Shakespeare lived and the impact of his plays during that era and our contemporary society.
Competency 2	Students identify common elements of Shakespeare comedies.
Sub-Topics	1. Identify and discuss Shakespeare's use of five acts. 2. Identify and discuss Shakespeare's use of iambic pentameter. 3. Identify and discuss Shakespeare's use of supernatural occurrences. 4. Identify and discuss Shakespeare's use of stock characters. 5. Identify and discuss Shakespeare's use of harmonious union.
Competency 3	Identify, analyze, and discuss common themes in Shakespeare's comedies.
Sub-Topics	1. Identify and analyze how the comedies address the importance of love. 2. Identify and analyze how the comedies address the power of language. 3. Identify and analyze how the comedies address the contrast between appearance and reality. 4. Identify and analyze how the comedies address the power of dreams and illusions.
Competency 4	Actively engage with text and experience Shakespeare's comedies.
Sub-Topics	1. Read, discuss, and analyze excerpts of Shakespeare's comedies. 2. Read, discuss, and analyze summaries of Shakespeare's comedies. 3. View either a film version or a professional live performance of a Shakespearian comedy and produce commentary about observations.