Discovery Zone:
A Closer Look at... Speeches!

Alignment with the BC Curriculum for ELA grades 4-9

Each resource in this collection explores vocabulary and offers reading strategies and classroom activities that provide opportunities for students to engage with Shakespeare's characters and language on a deeper level. These activities can be scaled to provide introductory lessons for grades 4-9; the depth and sophistication of the engagement can be increased as appropriate for grade level and students' abilities.

Big Ideas

- Texts can be understood from different perspectives (Grade 4, 5)
- Using language in creative and playful ways helps us understand how language works (Grade 4, 5)
- Questioning what we hear, read, and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens (Grade 5, 9)
- Language and text can be a source of creativity and joy (Grade 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)
- Exploring stories and other texts helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world (Grade 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)
- Exploring and sharing multiple perspectives extends our thinking (Grade 6, 7)
- People understand text differently depending on their worldviews and perspectives (Grade 8, 9)
- Texts are socially, culturally, and historically constructed (Grade 8, 9)

Comprehend & Connect

- Use a variety of comprehension strategies before, during, and after reading, listening, or viewing to deepen understanding of text (Grade 4)
- Use a variety of comprehension strategies before, during, and after reading, listening, or viewing to guide inquiry and deepen understanding of text (Grade 5)
- Apply appropriate strategies to comprehend written, oral, and visual texts, guide inquiry, and extend thinking (Grade 6, 7, 8, 9)

- Consider different purposes, audiences, and perspectives in exploring texts (Grade 4, 5)
- Recognize and appreciate how different features, forms, and genres of texts reflect various purposes, audiences, and messages (Grade 6, 7, 8, 9)

- Apply a variety of thinking skills to gain meaning from texts (Grade 4, 5)

- Use personal experience and knowledge to connect to text and deepen understanding of self, community, and world (Grade 4, 5)
- Construct meaningful personal connections between self, text, and world (Grade 6, 7, 8, 9)

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Comprehend & Connect, continued

- Think critically, creatively, and reflectively to explore ideas within, between, and beyond texts (Grade 6, 7, 8, 9)

- Respond to texts in personal and creative ways (Grade 5)
- Respond to text in personal, creative, and critical ways (Grade 6, 7, 8, 9)

- Identify how differences in context, perspectives, and voice influence meaning in texts (Grade 4, 5)
- Recognize and identify the role of personal, social, and cultural contexts, values, and perspectives in texts (Grade 6, 7, 8, 9)

- Recognize how language constructs personal, social, and cultural identity (Grade 6, 7, 8, 9)

- Recognize how literary elements, techniques, and devices enhance meaning in texts (Grade 4, 5)
- Understand how literary elements, techniques, and devices enhance and shape meaning (Grade 6, 7)
- Recognize how literary elements, techniques, and devices enhance and shape meaning (Grade 8)
- Recognize an increasing range of text structures and how they contribute to meaning (Grade 9)

Create & Communicate

- Exchange ideas and perspectives to build shared understanding (Grade 4, 5)
- Exchange ideas and viewpoints to build shared understanding and extend thinking (Grade 6, 7, 8, 9)

Students will be able to:

- Use a variety of comprehension strategies before, during, and after reading a Shakespearean text to guide inquiry and deepen understanding of text.
- Respond to a Shakespearean text in personal, creative, and critical ways.

You can find Assessment Rubrics for English Language Arts grades 4-9 in the Discovery Zone.

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