Discovery Zone:
Shakespeare's Weird Words

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 language on a deeper level. These activities can be scaled to provide introductory lessons for grades 4-9; the depth and sophistication of these activities 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)

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

Create & Communicate

- Use writing and design processes to plan, develop, and create texts for a variety of purposes and audiences (Grade 4, 5)
- Use writing and design processes to plan, develop, and create engaging and meaningful literary and informational texts for a variety of purposes and audiences (Grade 6, 7, 8, 9)

- Use language in creative and playful ways to develop style (Grade 4, 5)

- Transform ideas and information to create original texts (Grade 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)

- Select and use appropriate features, forms, and genres according to audience, purpose, and message (Grade 6, 7, 8, 9)

Students will be able to:

- Apply appropriate strategies to comprehend Shakespearean texts.
- Use language in creative and playful ways to develop a deeper understanding of unfamiliar vocabulary.

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

This document was prepared by BC teachers Cheryl Angst and Robert Manery.