



Discovery Zone

Shakespeare and Core Competencies

Supporting the Foundations of Learning

The BC Ministry of Education has identified core competencies at the centre of its curriculum design. This core includes thinking, communication, and personal and social competencies essential for engaging in deep learning. This document describes how the Discovery Zone resources support students' development in these proficiencies.

Communication

Communicating

At the heart of exploring Shakespeare is the exploration of language, and the Discovery Zone resources provide access points for students to engage with language at various levels of complexity in ways that are inviting rather than intimidating. The Discovery Zone resources provide countless opportunities for students to engage in speaking, listening, writing, and representing, not just the ideas in Shakespeare's plays, but their own responses in turn.

Collaborating

The Discovery Zone resources provide opportunities for students to collaborate with one another and with Shakespeare in myriad ways. Students are invited to use Shakespeare's language, characters, and stories to prompt their own expression through visual art, music, or creative writing as well as through performance.

Thinking

Creative Thinking

Engaging with Shakespeare requires imagination, as students create the worlds conjured by the images and inhabited by the characters. It nurtures inventiveness, as students find solutions to staging moments or otherwise bringing them to life.

Critical Thinking

Students immersed in the exploration of Shakespeare's text are presented with the complex practical, ethical, and moral dilemmas of the characters. The Discovery Zone resources provide opportunities to imagine and discuss these dilemmas, supporting the development of critical thinking.

Thinking, continued

Reflective Thinking

The Discovery Zone resources provide numerous prompts for reflective thinking, inviting students to explore the language, characters, and stories, to respond with their own ideas and interpretations, and to reflect on their discoveries.

Personal and Social Competencies

Positive Personal and Cultural Identity

The Discovery Zone resources encourage students to explore Shakespeare's language, characters, and stories from their own perspectives, through the lenses of their own personal and cultural identities. The resources embrace the flexibility of the material, and its openness to interpretation and adaptation.

Personal Awareness and Responsibility

Shakespeare's characters face a wide range of challenges and dilemmas. Exploring the plays gives students opportunities to consider the characters' choices and the consequences thereof. Students can imagine how their own values might prompt them to react if they're ever faced with similar circumstances, supporting their ability to make constructive and ethical choices in their own lives.

Social Awareness and Responsibility

Plays are a democratic literary form, with each character presenting a unique perspective. Theatre is a democratic art form, with every artist and audience member bringing unique interpretations and contributions to the collaboration. These qualities provide opportunities for students to consider questions from multiple perspectives, nurturing curiosity, respect, and empathy and supporting the development of healthy relationships.

There are 50+ FREE resources for student-centred, inquiry-based exploration of Shakespeare in the **Discovery Zone**. Additional resources to support teachers are available in the Teacher Zone. Resources include:

- curricular alignment for English Language Arts grades 4-9
- curricular alignment for English Language Arts grades 10-12
- assessment rubrics
- a curriculum planning tool
- underlying pedagogy, and more!