

IN BRIEF

Will's Play Time is a story about young William Shakespeare going to see his first play. He would go on to create many amazing plays of his own, which provided the inspiration for this pack!



1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

- Shakespeare is famous for using lots of different words in his plays! Now you can build your word power by looking up any words you don't recognise in this month's magazine. You can find the definitions in the **Glossary!**
- The **Class Discussion Sheet** is all about Shakespeare! What do you know about him, his plays, and the time he lived in? What do you think life was like in his era?
- Spot the age-related *adjectives* and an example of *alliteration* in the extract on this month's **Reading Comprehension Sheet!** Also, can you come up with some creative alliterations of your own?
- Will has mixed up the events of his tale on the **Story Sequencing Sheet** – can you put them in the right order? Show the correct order to read them in by putting a number after each entry...
- William Shakespeare often 'borrowed' stories from other writers and retold them in his own unique way. Now you can do this on the **Storyboard** page by writing in what happened to Will underneath the illustrations!
- Creating a story sounds complicated – but it doesn't have to be! Come up with some fun answers to the questions on the **Make a Play of Your Own!** page and you are on your way! If you need inspiration, check out the information on Shakespeare's plays on the **William's Greatest Hits** page later in this pack...

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1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS CONTINUED

- After you have completed the previous exercise, you're ready to plan out your tale on the **Plot Your Play** sheet. When you have done this, why not try acting out your masterpiece with your friends?
- What did you find out about little Will from the story – and would you like to hang out with him? See if you can answer the questions on the **Character Sheet: Shakespeare** page in cool and creative ways!
- Shakespeare introduced about *seventeen hundred* words to the English language! Can you work out which ones he made up on the **William's New Words** sheet? If you need a clue, there are definitions of the words he created on the page...
- Once you have read about Shakespeare in this pack (particularly on the **Much Ado about Shakespeare!** sheet), try writing a paragraph about his life on the **Shakespeare Word Mat** page – using all of the words on it!
- Do you want to learn more about the plays Will created? They are quite long and use old-fashioned language – but you can find out the basics (and read some cool quotes) on the **William's Greatest Hits** sheet. Which one is your favourite?

2. HISTORY LESSON IDEAS

- You've found out a lot about Shakespeare's words and plays, but would you like to find out more about the man himself? Then turn to the **Much Ado about Shakespeare!** page, which is packed with information about the mysterious life of this great writer...
- Going to a play in Shakespeare's time was very different to going to one today! See if you can work out the correct answers to the questions on the **Theatre True or False!** sheet – the answers might surprise you!
- We hope you enjoyed finding out about the theatre! Now do some research of your own and see if you can answer the questions on the **Researching the Globe** page. You can look for the answers (and other fascinating facts) online or in library books!

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3. ART LESSON IDEA

- Sometimes actors wore masks on stage – and a pair of masks (smiling and laughing) have become a symbol of the theatre! You can cut out and colour in the **Comedy and Tragedy Theatre Masks**, and then use them when acting out the play you created. Change your mask to suit your character's emotions!

4. MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- Being in a play is great fun, and it can also help us to see things from another person's point of view! After acting in a play, why not have a chat about what it was like to pretend to be someone else and what you learned from the experience?
- Creative and arts-based activities are enjoyable – but did you know that they can also help our mental health in important ways?
 - ▷ Storytelling can allow us to see things from new points of view and explore new solutions to problems or disagreements.
 - ▷ Creative activities can provide relaxation, distraction and absorption! They have also been shown to reduce the harmful effects of stress and help the immune system.
 - ▷ Arts activities build self-esteem, as well as a feeling of achievement and pride.
 - ▷ Culture helps us to develop a sense of connection and belonging. Taking part in joint projects and competitions are great ways to build links with others.

Exploring your creative side can give you a sense of meaning and purpose during unsettling times. Doing the creative activities in this pack will do just that – and we try to keep the art and writing guidelines as open-ended as possible to leave plenty of room for you to explore your own creative ideas! You can read more about the benefits of art for wellbeing on the Arts Council website: <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/developing-creativity-and-culture/arts-culture-and-wellbeing>.

STORYTIME GLOSSARY

Look up any new words in this handy reference section!

A Summer Treat! (Page 6)

- ▷ **Oatmeal** – porridge
- ▷ **Resist** – avoid the temptation of
- ▷ **Gathered** – picked
- ▷ **Grinned** – smiled widely
- ▷ **Ladled** – spooned
- ▷ **Eager** – keen

The Mystery in the Library (Page 8)

- ▷ **Cheerful** – happy
- ▷ **Down in the dumps** – depressed
- ▷ **Sniffed** – said while sniffing
- ▷ **Clutched** – held
- ▷ **Intercom** – public announcement system
- ▷ **Commanding** – impressive and in charge
- ▷ **Anthology** – collection
- ▷ **Sternly** – in a serious way
- ▷ **Haughty** – arrogant
- ▷ **Hissed** – said in a sharp way
- ▷ **Frustrated** – upset
- ▷ **Relieved** – no longer upset

The Heron's Breakfast (Page 14)

- ▷ **Horizon** – line where Earth meets sky
- ▷ **Peckish** – a bit hungry
- ▷ **Mist** – fog
- ▷ **Flitted** – moved quickly
- ▷ **Thrashed** – jerked around
- ▷ **Calories** – units of energy in food
- ▷ **Tiddler** – small fish

Will's Play Time (Page 17)

- ▷ **Strutted** – walked in a show-offy way
- ▷ **Christened** – blessed in a special ritual
- ▷ **Sermons** – speeches given by priests
- ▷ **Jostled** – bumped into each other
- ▷ **Wickedness** – bad behaviour
- ▷ **Impressive** – awesome
- ▷ **Menacingly** – in a threatening way
- ▷ **Tyrant** – cruel and bossy ruler
- ▷ **Pretender** – a ruler who doesn't have the right to be in charge
- ▷ **Enchanter** – magician
- ▷ **Sponsor** – person who provides money and support

The Marvellous Musicians (Page 22)

- ▷ **Snooty** – snobby and arrogant
- ▷ **Nobleman** – lord
- ▷ **Struggled** – fought to get away
- ▷ **Decent** – nice and polite
- ▷ **Soulful** – emotional
- ▷ **Flexible** – able to bend
- ▷ **Loping** – running with long strides
- ▷ **Fitness** – health and ability to exercise
- ▷ **Whimpered** – said in a sad or scared way
- ▷ **Rascally** – troublemaking
- ▷ **Snobby** – arrogant and superior
- ▷ **Pricked** – lifted
- ▷ **Toothily** – with many teeth showing
- ▷ **Practising** – doing something over and over again so they got better at it

Continued on page 2...

STORYTIME GLOSSARY

The Crocodile's Gift (Page 29)

- ▷ **Reptiles** – scaly cold-blooded animals
- ▷ **Kindle** – light
- ▷ **Rice paddies** – flooded fields for growing rice in
- ▷ **Laundry** – clothes to be washed
- ▷ **Sarong** – kind of garment worn wrapped around the body
- ▷ **Current** – flow of water
- ▷ **Scaly** – covered with scales
- ▷ **Finer** – nicer
- ▷ **Snatched** – rudely grabbed
- ▷ **Snapped** – said in a quick and angry way
- ▷ **Stupid** – not intelligent
- ▷ **Only had eyes for her** – only paid attention to her
- ▷ **Apologised** – said in a sorry way
- ▷ **Fortune** – luck
- ▷ **Intentions** – reasons for doing something
- ▷ **Capsized** – tipped over
- ▷ **Plunged** – fell
- ▷ **Float** – group of crocodiles

The Mighty Viking (Page 34)

- ▷ **Ladylike** – polite for a lady
- ▷ **Dignified** – serious and well behaved
- ▷ **Embroidery** – patterns made with thread
- ▷ **Scamper away** – run away
- ▷ **Exasperation** – annoyance
- ▷ **Forge** – workshop where metal things are made
- ▷ **Cursed** – enchanted with a spell that causes bad luck

- ▷ **Haunted** – inhabited by ghosts
- ▷ **Bristly** – with many thick hairs
- ▷ **Fake** – not real
- ▷ **Rowdy** – loud and badly behaved
- ▷ **Quayside** – part of a harbour
- ▷ **Straits** – narrow areas of water
- ▷ **Chum** – move roughly
- ▷ **Glowing** – shone with an inner light
- ▷ **Courage** – bravery
- ▷ **Lurked** – hid in a menacing way
- ▷ **Tingle** – tickly feeling

Why the Fish Lives in the Sea (Page 40)

- ▷ **Discuss** – talk about
- ▷ **Politely** – in a nice and proper way
- ▷ **Gulped** – swallowed
- ▷ **Smirk** – wicked little smile
- ▷ **Quarrel** – argument
- ▷ **Unacceptable** – not acceptable
- ▷ **Punishment** – penalty for doing something
- ▷ **Plopped** – dropped
- ▷ **Betrayed** – lied to or took advantage of

CLASS DISCUSSION SHEET

LET'S TALK ABOUT... **Shakespeare!** He is the most famous writer in the English language and his works are well known around the world – but what do YOU know about him and his time?

1. Have you heard about Shakespeare before? What did he write? Did he create plays, novels, movies, TV programmes or video games?

2. Can you name any famous characters from Shakespeare's works?

3. How many hundreds of years ago did Shakespeare live? Who ruled England at that time?

4. What other things do you know about Shakespeare? What do you think he looked like? Where did he live? Share what you know with your classmates!

SIGNS OF THE TIMES!

Life was very different for people in Shakespeare's time! There were no mobiles or video games then. What things do you think Will and his friends might have done for fun?

NAME _____ CLASS _____

Answers: 1. He wrote plays and also poems called 'sonnets', Novels, movies, TV programmes and video games weren't invented in his time, but many modern creators have been inspired by his works. 2. Shakespeare's most famous characters include Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth, and Prospero. 3. Shakespeare lived from 1564 to 1616. During that time, England was ruled by Queen Elizabeth I and then King James I.

READING COMPREHENSION SHEET

See if you can spot the age-related adjectives and the alliteration in this thrilling excerpt from young Will's story!

“

There were five men in the group, as well as a teenage boy. Their clothes were brightly coloured but a bit dirty, as if they had been travelling for a long time. Young Will was impressed by how they strutted and swaggered. It was as if they were giving a performance and wanted all the world to see them!

The leader of the group was a portly middle-aged man with a red nose. He saw little Will as he peeked from behind his father and waved to him.

”

1. What are the three adjectives (describing words) that tell you how old different characters are in this extract?

2. 'Alliteration' is when words begin with the same sound or letter. What are two words that alliterate in the third sentence?

3. Why do you think the players are showing off and acting in an attention-seeking way as they walk into town?

○ ALLITERATION CHALLENGE!

○ Can you come up with words that alliterate with these ones?

○ Big and _____

○ Loud and _____

○ Colourful and _____

○ _____

NAME _____ CLASS _____

Answers: 1. Teenage, young and middle-aged. 2. Strutted and swaggered. 3. They probably acted like this because they wanted people to notice them and come to their show!

STORY SEQUENCING SHEET

Will has written about his adventure in his diary – but he has got things in the wrong order! Can you sort them out for him?

The boys decided to put on a play of their own. Will pretended to be the great King Henry V!

Will looked outside and saw five men and a boy striding down the road. The leader told Will that he hoped to see him at the play!

Francis the chandler's boy then decided to be the villainous Richard III, who wanted to take over England.

Then the lead actor strode out onto the stage and declared that they were about to see a play called *The Cradle of Security*.

Will had a great time playing with his friends. He found out that he loved making up stories!

One day, young Will heard his father call out from downstairs. Some travelling players were coming to Stratford-upon-Avon!

Young Nick the town clerk's son decided to play a forest fairy and pretended to cast a spell that gave Will a donkey's head!

Will was spellbound by the play! It was about a prince who was tempted into wickedness and then transformed into a pig.

Lastly, young Robin pretended to be a wise enchanter who commanded the spirits.

That evening, Will's father took him to the local chapel where a stage had been set up. Lots of people had turned up to see the play!

The next day, after school, Will told his friends all about the play. They had not been able to go and see it.

NAME _____

CLASS _____

STORYBOARD

William Shakespeare often retold old stories in his plays – and now you can retell *his* tale by writing in what happened to him under these pictures!



NAME _____

CLASS _____

MAKE A PLAY OF YOUR OWN!

Making up your own fun play isn't as tricky as it sounds! Answer the questions on this page to come up with a story idea, setting and characters... and then turn to the next page to create your plot!



1. CHOOSE AN IDEA!

Think of a dramatic situation that could be good for a play. It could be inspired by a film or an event from history. Shakespeare 'borrowed' some of his story ideas from books, and gave them all his own magic touch! **MY IDEA IS:**

2. CREATE YOUR MAIN CHARACTER!

They should be interesting and likeable, but have some problems or weak spots. Otherwise, they could be a bit boring! You should act as the main character in your play. **MY MAIN CHARACTER IS:**

3. CHOOSE A CHALLENGE!

Every hero needs a problem or conflict. The story is about how they deal with it! They could struggle with a situation, another person, or even themselves!

THE CHALLENGE MY CHARACTER FACES IS:

4. PICK A SETTING!

Where does the story take place? It could be a place you know, or one you have made up! It might be your classroom or hometown, a place in another country, or even in another world. Also, think about *when* your play is set!

MY PLAY IS SET IN:

IN THE YEAR OF: _____

WHO ELSE APPEARS IN YOUR PLAY?

Now think about the other characters that are in your story. They could include the main character's friends, family, enemies and even pets! Shakespeare often included a 'fool' character who seemed a bit silly, but often was wise as well! Choose one of your friends to play each of the characters in your play...

_____ played by _____

_____ played by _____

_____ played by _____

PLOT YOUR PLAY...



Once you have decided on your story idea, it is time to come up with a storyline or plot. Many stories follow the pattern below – just fill in the boxes to create your own tale!

RISING ACTION!

The character does their best to sort out their problem, but faces challenges or enemies!

THE CHALLENGE!

The character faces a serious problem that they cannot avoid – even if they want to!

WRITE THE TITLE OF YOUR PLAY HERE

CLIMAX!

The character makes a great effort to overcome their challenge! This is the most exciting part of the play.

SETTING THE SCENE!

The main character is introduced, as well as their friends and family and the setting...

ENDING!

What happens after the main character deals with their challenge? This could be a happy ending... or a not-so-happy one!

NAME _____

CLASS _____

CHARACTER SHEET: SHAKESPEARE



We hope you enjoyed the story of Will's first play!
Now, tell us what you have learned about him by
answering these questions...

Which three words would you choose
to describe what Will was like?

What do you think young Will
would have done for fun?

Why do you think Will's friends liked
to hang out with him? Would you
want to be his friend?

Draw a picture of what you
think Will would have looked
like when he grew up!



What do you think his favourite subjects would have been at school?

NAME _____ CLASS _____

WILLIAM'S NEW WORDS

Shakespeare invented lots of new words that we still use today. Can you work out which of the words below are ones that he came up with? (Each of the words that he made up matches one of the definitions listed below...)



- A. PUPPY DOG**
- B. KITTEN**
- C. KISSING**
- D. EYEBALL**
- E. UNCLE**
- F. BEDROOM**
- G. DRUMMER**
- H. GOSSIP**
- I. NOSTRIL**
- J. TWIG**
- K. FASHIONABLE**
- L. HURRY**

1. To talk secretly about someone

3. Touching with the lips

5. A young dog

7. Stylish and trendy

2. The round part of the eye

4. To act or move quickly

6. A room for sleeping in

NAME _____

CLASS _____

SHAKESPEARE WORD MAT

This word mat has many words that relate to Shakespeare on it! See how many of these words you can use to write a story about Shakespeare's life. If you can use them all, you are a true Shakespeare expert!

The King's Men

King James I

Poetry

Stratford-Upon-Avon

Elizabethan

England

Plays

Writer

Sonnets

Theatre

SHAKESPEARE'S LIFE

NAME _____

CLASS _____

WILLIAM'S GREATEST HITS

William wrote dozens of plays, and you can find out about some of the most famous ones on this table. Which characters and quotes are your favourites?

Play	Cool character	The challenge	Famous quote	Fun fact
Hamlet	Hamlet, the prince of Denmark, who faces a difficult choice	The prince meets his father's ghost – and wants revenge on his wicked uncle!	"To be, or not to be, that is the question..."	The story of <i>The Lion King</i> is partly based on Hamlet!
Romeo and Juliet	Romeo and Juliet, two teenagers in love	They cannot be together because their families hate each other.	"O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?"	People call this a romantic play – even though it does not have a happy ending!
A Midsummer Night's Dream	Puck, a fairy with magic powers	The fairies decide to play tricks on some humans who spend the night in the forest!	"Lord, what fools these mortals be!"	It doesn't take place over one night, but four or five!
Macbeth	Macbeth, a Scottish lord who wants to be king	Some witches tell Macbeth that he will be king... so he decides to betray his ruler!	"False face must hide what the false heart doth know."	Many actors believe it is bad luck to say the name of this play, so they call it 'the Scottish play' instead!
Much Ado About Nothing	Beatrice, a clever lady, and Benedick, a boastful soldier	Beatrice and Benedick argue with each other... until they discover a wicked plot!	"I had rather hear my dog bark at a crow, than a man swear he loves me."	A film called <i>10 Things I Hate About You</i> sets this story in a modern high school!
Henry V	Henry V, the warrior-king of England	The king invades France, hoping to take the French crown for himself.	"All things are ready, if our mind be so."	Shakespeare borrowed the story from a book, Holinshed's <i>Chronicles</i> .
Richard III	Richard III, a cunning and wicked king	Richard uses treachery to take the throne of England.	"A horse! a horse! my kingdom for a horse!"	Historians think that the real Richard was nowhere near as evil as he was shown in the play!

MUCH ADO ABOUT SHAKESPEARE!

Although William Shakespeare is very famous, we don't know much about his life. However, here are some cool things that we DO know!

He was born in **Stratford-upon-Avon**, England, in 1564. His father was a glove-maker and member of the town council.

When he was 18, he married a lady called **Anne Hathaway** and had three children with her.

When he was about 28, he moved to London and worked as an actor and playwright. **He often played kings in plays he wrote!**

Not everybody liked his plays! A man called **Robert Greene** called him an 'upstart crow' because he hadn't been to university like a lot of other writers.

Shakespeare also wrote poetry, including **154 love poems called sonnets**. We do not know who they were written for, though!

He became one of the members of the Lord Chamberlain's Men theatre company, which owned **the Globe Theatre**. He made a lot of money as part of this company!

Queen Elizabeth I was a fan! She might have asked him to write a play about a character named Falstaff falling in love, which became *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Shakespeare's plays were so popular that they were collected in book form. Some of these original collections are now worth more than **10 million US dollars!**

FIND A FACT!
What new fact have you found out about Shakespeare?

 Learn more about him at the Royal Shakespeare Company website:
<https://www.rsc.org.uk/shakespeares-life-and-times>

THEATRE TRUE OR FALSE!



Theatres were weird and wonderful places in Shakespeare's time! See if you can answer all of these true-or-false questions about Elizabethan theatres!

1. It was against the law for women to appear on stage – so all women's parts were played by boys in dresses.

TRUE FALSE

2. The plays were mostly performed at night, and the stage was lit by candles.

TRUE FALSE

3. Coloured flags were hung outside the theatre to advertise what kind of play was being shown.

TRUE FALSE

4. Brightly coloured sets were put on stage to show where each scene was taking place.

TRUE FALSE

5. Sound effects were used to make plays more exciting!

TRUE FALSE

6. Actors often played several parts and sometimes had to change costumes between scenes!

TRUE FALSE

7. London's theatres were in the fanciest part of town!

TRUE FALSE

8. Elizabethan theatres had sprinkler systems to stop fires.

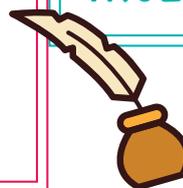
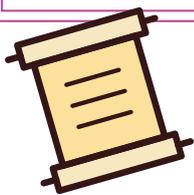
TRUE FALSE

9. Plays often had long speeches because this gave the other actors more time to change costumes.

TRUE FALSE

10. It cost an extra penny to sit on a seat with a cushion!

TRUE FALSE



NAME _____

CLASS _____

Answers: 1. TRUE; 2. FALSE – plays were performed during the day, using daylight; 3. TRUE – a red flag was for a history play, white for comedy, and black for tragedy; 4. FALSE – there were no fancy sets, the actors described where they were supposed to be; 5. TRUE; 6. TRUE; 7. FALSE – theatres were not permitted in London at the time, so they were mostly built on the south bank of the Thames; 8. FALSE; 9. TRUE; 10. TRUE.

RESEARCHING THE GLOBE

Shakespeare partly owned the Globe Theatre – and a replica, called ‘Shakespeare’s Globe’, was built in modern times in London. Research about them both and see if you can answer these questions!

When was the original
Globe built?

Where did it stand?

The first Globe
burnt down in:

The open area around
the stage was called the

_____.
This was where poor people
called _____ could
stand and watch a play
for _____.

When was the new
‘Shakespeare’s Globe’
theatre built?

How many people
could the old Globe
Theatre hold?

Does Shakespeare’s
Globe stand in the
same place as the
old Globe Theatre?

YES NO

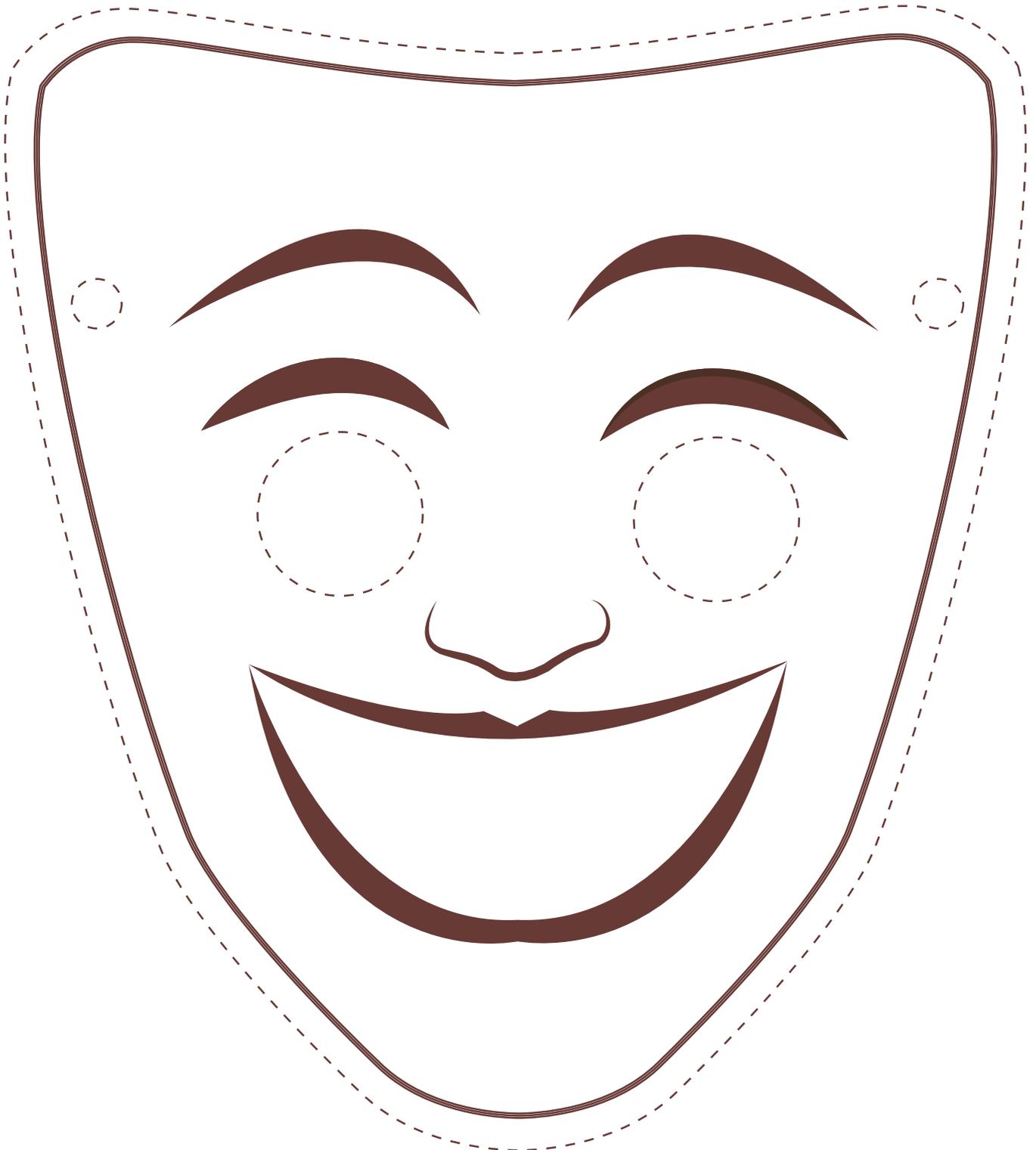
How many people is the modern
‘Shakespeare’s Globe’ allowed
to have in it at one time?

What is one difference between the new
Globe and the old one? _____



COMEDY THEATRE MASK

Some actors used masks on stage so everybody could clearly see the expressions they were meant to be showing! Cut out the masks on these two pages and colour them in! Then you can attach elastic through the holes and use them when you act out the play you have created!



TRAGEDY THEATRE MASK

