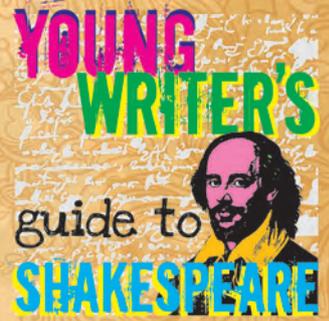


# SOAP OPERA SHAKESPEARE THE COMPETITION!



1

## DISCUSSION ACTIVITY:

### Exploring Shakespearean themes

- In pairs or groups, research Shakespeare's plays which have 'darker' themes that also regularly surface within soap operas e.g.
  - individuals or groups plotting against each other
  - revenge
  - deceit
  - justice
  - loyalty
  - guilt
- Give examples of where you have seen these themes in soap operas, dramas, and films.
- Discuss what techniques are used in soap operas to engage and excite the audience.



## WRITTEN ACTIVITY:

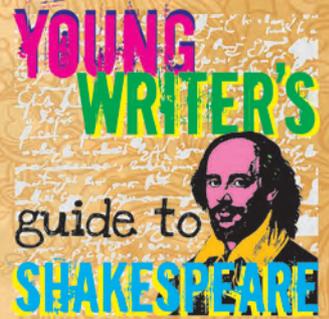
### Creating a soap opera episode

Now it's your turn to create your very own Shakespearean inspired scene!

- Create a dramatic or comic scene for a soap opera.
- Blend a Shakespearean theme such as; revenge, deceit or justice etc. into your scene.
- Make sure that the theft of someone's creative work or plagiarism is a major part of the plot.
- For hints on how to write your play and to set your play out properly – see the Hints and Tips.
- Engage and entertain your audience!



# SOAP OPERA SHAKESPEARE THE COMPETITION!



2

Why not show off all the skills you have learnt from the activities in this pack and enter your play into our fantastic *Soap Opera Shakespeare Competition*?  
Find it online at [www.shakespeareyoungwriters.co.uk](http://www.shakespeareyoungwriters.co.uk)

There are some amazing prizes up for grabs for you and your school!

- A tablet and £100 worth of book vouchers for you!
- A visit to your school by a leading author of books!
- Either a Shakespearean class trip or £1000 worth of books for your school library!

What we'll be looking for in your competition entries

1. The storyline will be true to life and gripping to follow (and maybe, funny as well!).
2. It has a theme you found in one of William Shakespeare's plays – jealousy, for example.
3. You'll have created characters that are true to life.
4. Theft of creative work is part of your storyline.
5. It has a great ending! (Dramatic or scary or amusing or maybe – something very unexpected.)

### Summary of Competition Terms and Conditions

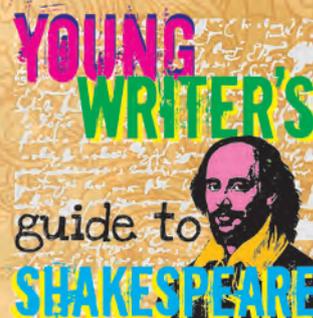
1. The competition is open to students aged 9–14 years in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
2. The competition closes on Friday 6th November 2015.
3. The winning pupil will receive a tablet and £100 worth of book vouchers.
4. First prize for the winning school will be a visit to your school by a leading author. They will also win either a Shakespearean class trip or £1000 worth of books for your school library. A suitable trip to be decided by the winning school and funded by ALCS to a maximum value of £1000.
5. Two pupil runners-up will each receive 1 x £50.00 book vouchers.
6. Full competition terms and conditions can be found at [www.shakespeareyoungwriters.co.uk](http://www.shakespeareyoungwriters.co.uk)

For tips on how to write and set out a play go to page 3 and 4



# WRITING A MINI SOAP OPERA

## HINTS & TIPS



Below are some useful hints and tips to help get you started. Check out the website too which is full of advice and clever features such as a 'random ideas generator' to help get your creativity flowing! [www.shakespeareyoungwriters.co.uk](http://www.shakespeareyoungwriters.co.uk) contains all you need to maximise your chances of winning those fantastic prizes. So what are you waiting for?

Plan your piece carefully before you start.	This will help to make your writing more <b>structured</b> .
Have a beginning, a middle and an end to your scene or episode.	This will <b>shape your work</b> and increase its impact.
Don't make your plot too complex.	Remember, you are only writing a <b>short</b> scene or episode.
Limit the number of characters you invent.	Your scene or episode should be <b>sharp and to the point</b> .
Be careful to distinguish between each character.	Each character you invent should have an <b>individual personality</b> .
Include a cast list and 'stage directions' which describe what's happening.	The reader needs to be able to clearly picture the <b>action</b> .
Make your plot realistic.	If the plot and setting are <b>too bizarre</b> , your audience will be less likely to understand your <b>key message</b> .
Use some of the techniques that soap-operas (and Shakespeare in his day) use to sustain interest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short and quickly changing scenes to focus the audience's attention.</li> <li>• Sharp and concise dialogue to avoid the audience becoming confused or bored and keep them entertained.</li> <li>• Colloquialisms (informal language) to make the action true to life and easier for the audience to relate to.</li> <li>• Cliff-hanger endings to make the audience want to find out what happens and add excitement.</li> </ul>
Make sure you communicate your key theme or message strongly.	Remember that the scene or episode should persuade people to think about <b>their own actions</b> .
Think carefully about how your piece will end.	A positive conclusion can encourage the audience to <b>learn from the mistakes</b> that your main character has made – just like Shakespeare.
Finally... read your piece over with your friends before you submit it online.	Reading the piece out loud with others helps you to see and hear it from an audience's viewpoint; <b>be prepared to rewrite</b> parts if they do not sound right.

# TIPS ON HOW TO SET OUT A PLAY

Plays and TV scripts are set out differently to other types of creative writing. They have the following key features:

- **Title:** This should give a clue about (but not give away completely) what's going to happen.
- **Scene:** You explain briefly where and when your soap opera is set.
- **Characters:** Describe which characters are in the scene you have created. You should also provide a short description of each character. If characters arrive or leave after the start of the scene you signify this by using the terms 'Enter' and 'Exit'. The names of each of your characters should appear on the left-hand side of the page printed in capital letters followed by a colon.
- **Dialogue:** The words you have given each of your characters to say.
- **Stage Directions:** Describe what is happening in the scene and what the characters are doing. Directions are put in brackets.

## Example

### CHARACTERS:

**LUCY (14):** A bright, energetic girl who is involved in everything at school.

**BILLY (13):** The class comedian, he tends to find himself in trouble too often for his own good.

**MR FRASER (34):** Lucy and Billy's English teacher. Strict but fair.

### SCENE 1: 8.30 A.M. IN ROOM 26 AT MOWLEM HIGH

Students are arriving before morning registration.

(Enter **BILLY**, running. He stops when he sees **LUCY** writing on a wall poster.)

**BILLY:** What's that you're doing?

**LUCY:** (smiling) Hi Billy. I'm signing up for that new play that Mrs Shah told us about yesterday.

**BILLY:** What do you want to be in a play for? You have to stay after school to do it!

**LUCY:** It's going to be fun - all my friends are going to be in it.

(Enter **MR FRASER**. He yawns and then sees **BILLY**. Looks suspiciously towards him.)

**MR FRASER:** Billy, what are you up to now?

**BILLY:** (angrily) Nothing, Sir! Why do teachers always pick on me?

