

# Shakespeare to Hip Hop's Shakespeare Time-Traveling Speakeasy Study Guide



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## Introduction

### *How to get into The Speakeasy*

Welcome to *The Shakespeare Time Traveling Speakeasy*— a cool fusion of music, history, theatre, storytelling, songs, poems, and raps about the life, times, works, and influence of the most famous writer in history, William Shakespeare (also known as “The Bard”). *The Shakespeare Time Traveling Speakeasy* is a literary concert created and performed by Regie Gibson and Marlon Carey, two outstanding literary performers, who have come together to form the group Shakespeare to Hip Hop. “The Speakeasy” was developed to be a featured series of performances for the Boston Public Library’s celebration of the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare’s death. However, it proved to be so popular, educational, and entertaining that Shakespeare to Hip Hop has been asked to perform at schools, theatres, festivals and institutions throughout the United States.

The full version of “The Speakeasy” features a slideshow, costumes, and live-band. Many songs, poems and stories are performed to interpretations of popular and familiar tunes from several musical genres including Jazz, Pop, Blues, Country, Disco, and Hip Hop.

### To Educators and Parents

This study guide is designed to:

- Provide in-depth information about both *The Shakespeare Time Traveling Speakeasy’s* performance and William Shakespeare.
- Offer ideas that enable discussions before and after the performance.
- Reinforce the knowledge introduced in the performance and facilitate continued learning post performance.
- Promote English, History, Theatre, and Musical Arts Literacy.
- Support the National Education’s Core Curriculum Content Standards in the Arts, English Literature, and History.



## Meet the Characters

### *Robin Hoodfellow*

A streetwise, flamboyant, fast talking man-about-town (Think of Robin as a sort of tour guide and carnival barker). He represents the person more intimate and familiar with Shakespeare's plays and Shakespeare's London.

Robin is played by Regie Gibson. He is a literary performer, actor, playwright, and educator who loves performing great poetic texts and finding ways to teach and help people see that poetic language is enjoyable, useful, and cool. He loves doing this so much, he went to school and studied hard to get a Master's degree in how to create work that reaches people. He has been all over the United States and to 9 countries performing his work and those of others. He is a poetry slam champion who has twice represented the United States in Italy, and won two international performance awards. He has written texts for singing groups and musical ensembles and has been writer-in residence for libraries, museums, and other institutions.



### *Horatio Everyman*



A humble companion and partner to Robin. He represents the person who is somewhat familiar with Shakespeare. He works to gain greater understanding of Shakespeare and is fascinated by the many ways Shakespeare has impacted our lives over the past four centuries.

Horatio is played by poet, actor and hip hop artist, Marlon Carey. Marlon has written and taught Poetry and Creative Writing for several years in the New England Area and around the country. Also known as hip hop poet, Inphynit (Pronounced "Infinite"), Marlon received his Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree in Creative Writing from St. Andrews College in Laurinburg, NC.

### *The Players (band)*

The musicians who help provide an audio vehicle for the text in the presentation. Using popular American music forms such as Jazz, Blues, Hip hop, Funk, Disco, and Country, the Players assist with the musical exploration.



# Quick Facts about William Shakespeare

1. William Shakespeare wrote about 38 plays and over 150 poems. However, no one knows the exact number, as some of his work may have been lost over time.
2. Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1564. He was one of eight children born to John Shakespeare, a well-to-do glove-maker and leather worker, and his wife, Mary Arden.
3. His actual date of birth remains a mystery, but tradition has it as April 23rd.
4. Shakespeare married a farmer's daughter named Anne Hathaway. They had three children – a daughter, Susanna, and twins, Judith and Hamnet.
5. In 1585, William Shakespeare disappeared from records for around seven years. Historians often refer to this part of the writer's life as his "Lost Years".
6. Shakespeare was part of a theatre company called Lord Chamberlain's Men, who regularly performed at a place called "The Theatre". However, after a dispute with the landlord, they moved to a theatre called "The Curtain" which was owned by the Burbage brothers. After a while the Curtain was taken apart, and its beams were shipped across the Thames River and used to build "The Globe"— a theatre partly owned by Shakespeare.
7. Although Shakespeare wrote many plays (more than one per year for two decades!), no one knows which one was his first. Some scholars, however, believed it was *Henry VI Part I*.
8. Plays in Shakespeare's London were different than those performed today. One major difference is that, by law, women were not allowed to act on stage— so, men played women's parts. Another difference was that audiences were allowed to shout and throw food at actors they didn't like!
9. Towards the end of his life, William retired quietly in his hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon. He died on 23 April 1616 at age 52 after falling ill.
10. Today, Shakespeare's works are studied in schools and universities around the world, and his stories are depicted on TV and in films.



# Timeline of William Shakespeare

**APRIL 1564**

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon to parents John Shakespeare and Mary Arden



**1583**

Birth of his first child, Susan

**1582**

William Shakespeare marries Anne Hathaway at 18 years old



**1585**

Birth of his twins, Judith and Hamnet

**1585 -1591**

Shakespeare's "Lost Years"; no historical records on him



**1611**

Shakespeare retires

**1599**

The Globe Theatre is built



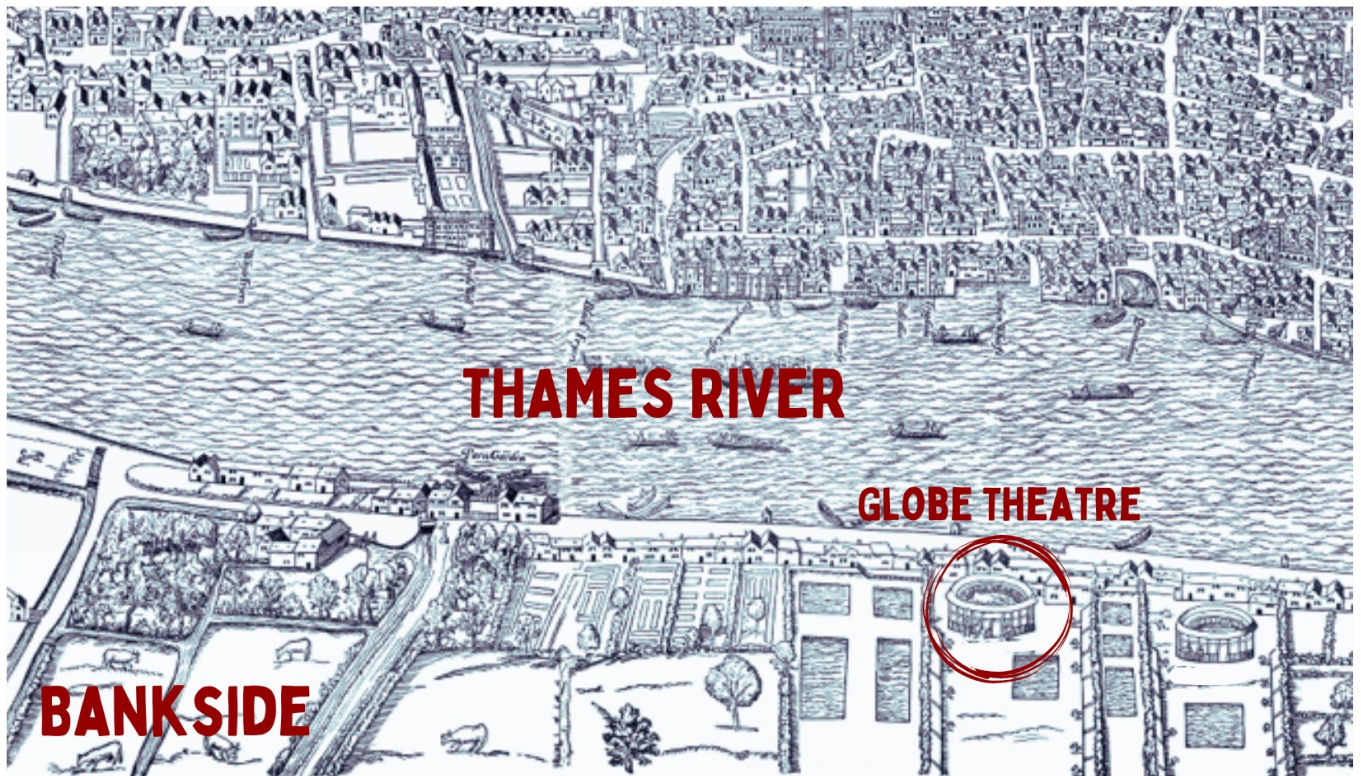
**1613**

The Globe Theatre burns

**April 1616**

Shakespeare passes away

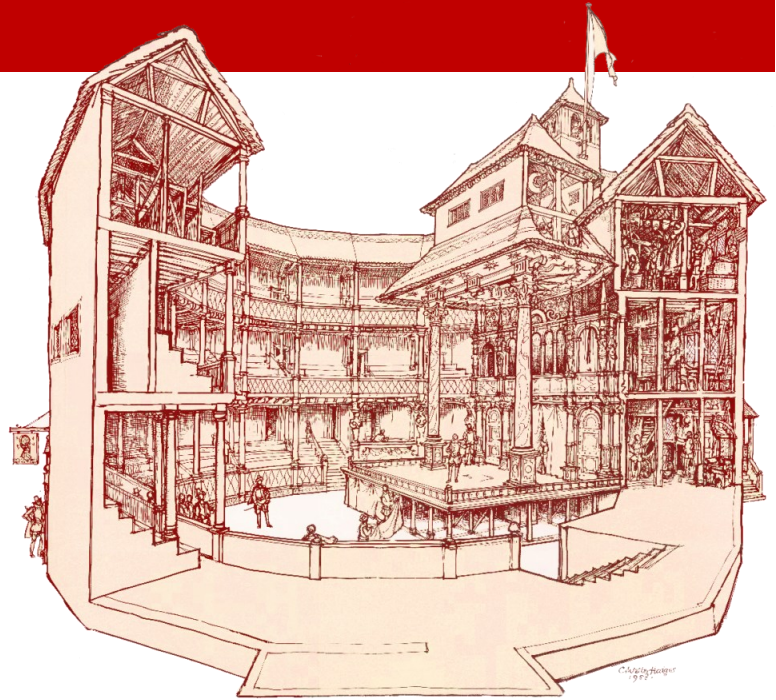
# SHAKESPEARE'S LONDON





# Around The Globe

Did you know Shakespeare had his own theatre? The Globe Theatre was an Elizabethan playhouse first built in 1599. William Shakespeare wrote and produced his own plays at the Globe. Back in Shakespeare's day, because the Globe was in Bankside (across the Thames and outside of London), flags were used to communicate when a play was being performed.



The Globe Theatre looked very different compared to those of today. It stood more than 30 feet high, and had three levels of seating. Also unlike today's theatres, some patrons would have had to stand during the entire performance as only the wealthy could afford seats during the events. Luckily for everyone the stage was 5-feet high—so all in attendance could see the actors.



The original Globe did not have a long life. During a production of *Henry VIII* in 1613, a real cannon was used as a prop and burned the Globe to the ground. But do not worry, a replica theatre, the International Shakespeare Globe Theater, opened in 1997 and still performs Shakespeare plays today!



# Don't forget Hip Hop

In the past decade or so, hip hop has emerged as a major tool for engaging young people in the classroom, especially in Language Arts and Creative Writing. Though the Speakeasy utilizes several musical forms to showcase Shakespeare and his works, hip hop resonates the most with young audiences. The following is not intended to be a complete introduction to hip hop, but merely a small primer for activities to come in this study guide. We encourage teachers to seek additional resources for a more comprehensive dig into hip hop and songwriting.

## What is Hip Hop?

Hip hop is a cultural movement that attained widespread popularity in the 1980s and '90s. The musical style incorporates rhythmic music and rhyming speech.

## The Original Four Elements of Hip Hop

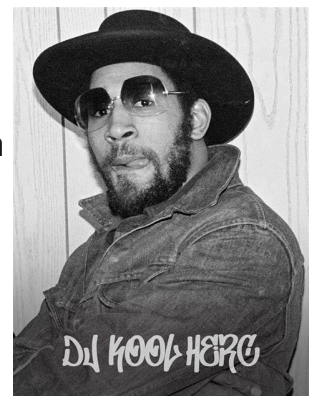
1. Deejaying (turntabling): Shaping the genre's sonic landscape
2. Rapping (MCing or rhyming): Performing poetry over rhythmic music
3. Graffiti painting (graf or writing): Visual art and messaging
4. Breakdancing (B-boying): Physical expression

## History of Hip Hop

Hip hop began in urban areas by Jamaican-Americans, African-Americans, and Latino-Americans in some of the larger cities of the United States.

Graffiti and breakdancing were the first elements of hip hop to become famous. The graffiti movement was started about 1972 by a Greek American teenager who signed "Taki 183" (his name and street, 183rd Street) on walls throughout the New York City subway. By 1975 youths in the Bronx, Queens, and Brooklyn were doing the same thing. They spray-painted their names and colorful images across New York. Soon, graffiti was displayed in art galleries across the United States, Europe, and Japan.

The first major hip-hop deejay was DJ Kool Herc (Clive Campbell), an 18-year-old immigrant who introduced the huge sound systems of his native Jamaica to parties. Using two turntables, he combined percussive grooves (break beats) from older records with popular dance songs. Kool Herc extended the break beat leading to improvisational dancing. Contests developed in which the best dancers created breakdancing, a dance of acrobatic and occasionally airborne moves, including head spins and backspins.



# About the Show



**Program Setlist might include the following:**

## *Quoting Shakespeare*

The text to this song is a version of Bernard Levin's "You're Quoting Shakespeare" which hangs on the wall in Shakespeare's Globe in London. It highlights the importance of Shakespeare's words and their enduring effects on our culture; and includes various famous, everyday phrases attributed to Shakespeare. The musical accompaniment is by a rendering of Miles Davis' classic, "So What?".

## *Stratford*

Set to an interpretation of the theme song of *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, this piece of hip hop storytelling summarizes the journey of Shakespeare's humble beginnings in rural Stratford-Upon-Avon to his journey to the sprawling city of London where he went to seek his fortune.

## *London*

This jazzy monologue paints a portrait of the sights, sounds, and smells of the bustling metropolis that was Shakespeare's London. The music for this piece is a version of Quincy Jones' "Killer Joe". Delivered by Robin Hoodfellow, "London" takes us through the ins and outs of the city.

## *Get Married (And have kids before you die)*

One of the major takeaways from some of Shakespeare's sonnets (14-lined poems) is that one should be sure to find a suitable mate to marry and have children with before one dies. This fun, humorous, high energy tune is set to a country music groove, ala Johnny Cash.

### *Hamlet (Go Hamlet)*

One of Shakespeare's most popular plays summarized in two 16 bar rap verses.

### *The Swagger of Henry V*

A musical and dramatic rendering of one or two speeches of Henry V, as written by Shakespeare. Performed to an interpretation of Blackstreet's "No Diggity", this song presents Henry's confidence and bravery at the battles of Harflour and Agincourt, where against the odds, Henry's relatively small army successfully invades and conquers France. This piece is performed with a funk and hip hop vibe that will make you want to get your swag on.

### *The Shakespeare Character Smackdown!*

Much like the "Epic Rap Battles of History" series on the internet, our Shakespeare Character Smackdowns are fun verbal battles between some of Shakespeare's most famous (and infamous) characters. (See more on the next page to see the line up!)

### *No More Than Imaginings*

A selection of phrases from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" rearranged into relevant philosophy. This is a piece honoring the lunatics, lovers, and poets!

### *Here We Are or Dance and Sing*

And, finally— we end with a salsa-esque, music-driven philosophical piece addressing the themes most prevalent in Shakespeare—humanity and the finite nature of human existence. The song is an enjoyably danceable musical moment that asks us to recognize and revel in the idea that life is beautiful—so live it fully!!





# Smackdown Characters

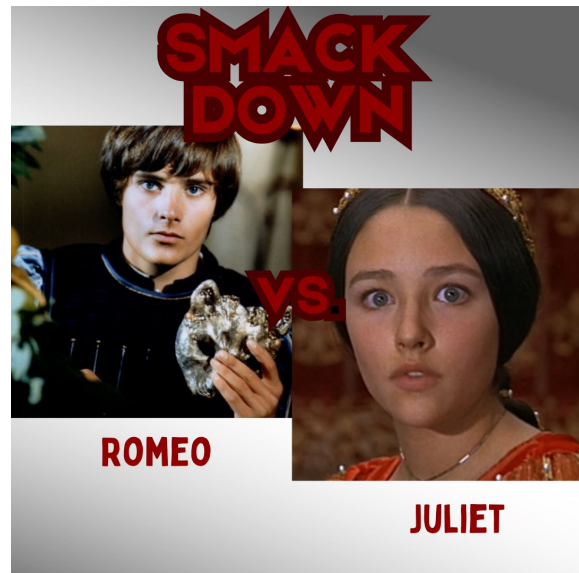


## Oberon and Nick Bottom

Both characters are from “A Midsummer’s Night Dream”. Oberon, King of the Fairies, has put a spell on his wife, Titania. The spell makes her fall asleep and then fall in love with the first living creature she sees after waking up. Nick Bottom is an actor whose been magically given the head of donkey—and is the first creature Titania sees when she awakens!

## Romeo and Juliet

Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet are supposed to hate each other because their families do. But, they fall in love and eventually die. However, not in this smackdown! They have been married for 400 years and are now living in America and getting marriage counseling.



## Lady Macbeth and Iago

Undoubtedly two of the worst villains in all of Shakespeare’s plays. Lady Macbeth, from “Macbeth” engineered the death of the King of Scotland (and quite a few others) in order to gain and keep power. Iago, from “Othello”, pretends to be a friend to the General Othello, but makes him believe his wife, Desdemona, is unfaithful to him.



# Classroom Discussions

## Before the Show

### Ask students

- What they know about William Shakespeare and what opinion they may have of him or his work.
- How they developed their opinion. Have they read any of Shakespeare's plays or poems? Have they heard about him from a parent or an older sibling who influenced their thoughts?
- If they know what an "adaptation" is and if they know of any examples of adaptations of Shakespeare's work. Some examples include *Gnomeo and Juliet* (Based on *Romeo and Juliet*); Quentin Tarantino's version of *Romeo and Juliet* starring Leonardo DiCaprio; *10 Things I Hate About You* (*The Taming of the Shrew*); and *She's the Man* (*Twelfth Night*).
- If they recognize these phrases:
  - All's well that ends well
  - Catch a cold.
  - Vanished into thin air.
  - Tongue-tied
  - Star-crossed lovers.

These are all attributed to William Shakespeare!

- What do they know about hip hop's origin.
- What makes rap different from everyday speech or song lyrics.
- Who are their favorite artists and why?
- Discuss what *The Shakespeare Time-Traveling Speakeasy* might be like based on the title of the performance.

## After the Show

### Debrief with the students

- What did you think of the show? What was your favorite part of the show? What was a part you found difficult to understand? What was surprising?
- What are some Shakespeare facts you did not know before seeing the performance?
- Delve into a Shakespeare play! May we suggest "A Midsummer Night's Dream"? The Folger library has excellent resources for beginning Shakespeare learners.

A Midsummer  
Night's Dream  
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



Romeo and Juliet  
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



# Classroom Activities

## Group Activities: The Uncivil Sonnet Smackdown!

Let's face it, students love hearing great insults. And so did William Shakespeare! In fact, he wrote some really great ones. Below you will find some insults taken from his plays that have been slightly altered and placed into sonnet form. The **objective** of the *Uncivil Sonnet Smackdown* is for students to have fun working together to deliver a text, in rhythm, as a team.

### Elizabethan Emcee

I am made sick when I look upon thee.  
Thou art malignant and most disloyal— and  
Thou art a lump of foul deformity.  
I'd beat thee— but fear I'd infect my hands  
You elf-skin, scullion, scurvy rampallian.  
Proud owner of not one good quality  
Pigeon-liver'd false fustilarian  
Come here... I'll tickle your catastrophe.  
Methink'st thou art a general offense.  
You venomous fopdoodle—bunch-backed toad. You  
cancerous bolting-hutch of beastliness  
Are the rankest scent to offend a nose  
Thou crusty batch with more earwax than wit  
I've been searching for a fool...TAG, you're it

vs.

### The Battling Bards

Oh, for breath to utter what is like thee:  
Thou knavish and clay-brained cloak bag of guts  
Carbuncle of endless iniquity  
Knotty-pated plague....rancid malmsey-butt  
The tartness of your face sours ripe grapes  
You rooting hog— how I wish thou would burst  
You oafish, puke stockinged, lack-linened mate  
Whose wit's as thick as Tewkesbury mustard  
You're vicious, ungentle, foolish, unkind,  
The idol of idiot-worshippers, YO—  
Your heart is empty and so is your mind  
You've less brains than I have in mine elbows  
Better witty fool than a foolish wit  
Lest wisdom fill your mouth don't open it

### Activity 1

- 1) Place students into two rival teams.
- 2) Give each team an "Uncivil Sonnet" and assign each team member a line.
- 3) Have the teams compete with each other and see who delivers their "Uncivil Sonnet" the best.

### Activity 2

- 1) Copy sonnets into another document and enlarge the font as big as you can.
- 2) Cut paper into strips so that one line of a sonnet is on each strip of paper.
- 3) Place tape on the backs of each strip so it may be placed on a white board.
- 4) Place the strips of paper from each sonnet on the board making sure to keep the lines from each sonnet together on separate parts of the board.
- 5) Mix up the lines of each sonnet.
- 6) Have teams come to the board and create new sonnets out of the lines.

**Don't forget:** Students must follow the sonnet rule, which is — every other line must end in a rhyme except the last two which rhyme with each other.



# Classroom Activities

## Group or Individual Activity: The “Rhyme Spider” (Hot 16’s/ Song Lyrics/and Spoken Word Poetry Activity)

In this exercise, we will create a 16-line rhymed poem or “hot 16”. The “Rhyme Spider” (on the right side of this page) is a tool for quickly creating fun poems and verses that we may build on later. We will use the **rhyme spider** on and its eight legs as our brainstorming tool.

First, decide upon a topic and write that topic in the center oval of the **rhyme spider** body.

Next, write a simple word that comes to mind when you look at the word in the center. Write that word in one of the circles on the **rhyme spider’s** legs. Then, write a second, a third, and so on until you fill all eight circles with a different related word.

Once you have a word in each circle, think of a word that rhymes with each of the eight words and write them in their circles as well. Now, place all the extra words you brainstormed in the word bank below— words like “celebratory” or “long-legged” or even “supercilious”.

When you have your pairs of words on each leg, begin to create **couplets** (two lines of rhymed poetry)

*Hint: look for the story between the two words. What two sentences sum up the story between the pair? Have fun with it!*

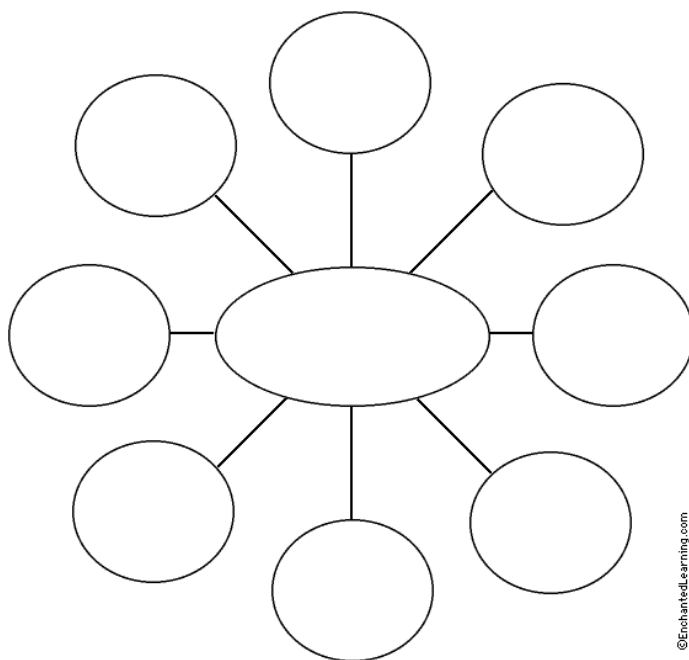
ex:

I remember one night in Argentina after dancing a **tango**  
I met a woman on the street, who handed me a ripe **mango**

Continue your pairing while letting the story build as you go. Feel free to bring up some of your word bank items if you want, or any poetic skills you already have. You already know the end rhymes. Go for it. Set a timer (recommended min 20-25 mins). You may write on the reverse side of this sheet if you want.

**WORD BANK** (words 3 syllables or more, or hard to rhyme words)

*Helpful Hint: Use the alphabet to help find rhymes*



# Classroom Activities

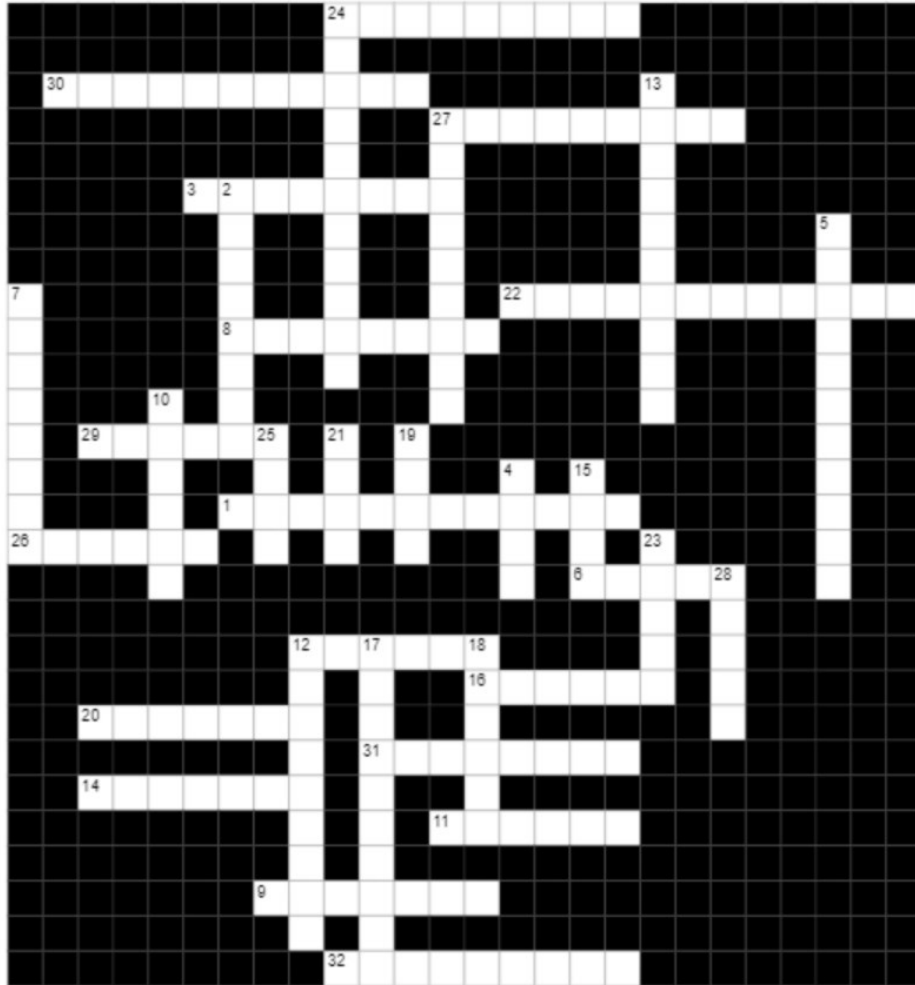
Find all the words related to hip hop. Words can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, some are even backwards!

## Hip Hop Word Search

H	Y	I	C	Y	S	E	R	G	F	G	R	CHORUS
B	N	G	N	U	Y	F	O	N	N	R	H	HIP HOP
D	T	G	O	F	C	I	E	I	N	R	I	MUSIC
E	C	H	O	R	U	S	M	C	R	D	P	TURNTABLES
E	Y	A	R	H	O	Y	R	N	P	J	H	RHYMING
J	R	R	A	P	H	H	S	A	I	K	O	DEEJAY
A	T	I	H	R	H	A	S	D	R	O	P	DANCING
Y	E	I	T	A	O	H	N	N	H	O	P	RAP
H	O	G	R	A	F	F	I	T	I	L	P	DJ KOOL HERC
J	P	F	N	Y	N	R	P	I	T	H	H	POETRY
P	O	T	U	R	N	T	A	B	L	E	S	GRAFFITI
C	S	M	U	S	I	C	O	R	S	R	I	
D	S	P	C	N	H	C	R	H	E	C	N	
A	U	R	M	G	I	O	K	I	O	B	H	

# Classroom Activities

Solve the Speakeasy Crossword Puzzle! Answers are on the next page.



## Across

1. Shakespeare's wife (12)
3. London district that Shakespeare's theater was in (8)
6. A form of footwear (5)
8. Last name of a Speakeasy guide (8)
9. Used to be on a bird (7)
11. 15th century English King who invaded and conquered France (6)
12. A modern type of music (6)
14. First name of a Speakeasy guide (7)
16. Capital of England in which Shakespeare spent 20 years (6)
20. Name of the band in the Speakeasy show (7)
22. Shakespeare plays not easily categorized (12)
24. In the show it's a rap-style battle between Shakespeare's characters (9)
26. A type of 14-line poem (6)
27. Where Shakespeare was born in 1564 (9)
29. The river that runs through London (6)
30. Shakespeare's love interest (11)
31. Name of Shakespeare's theater in Southwark (8)
32. Plays where many people die (9)

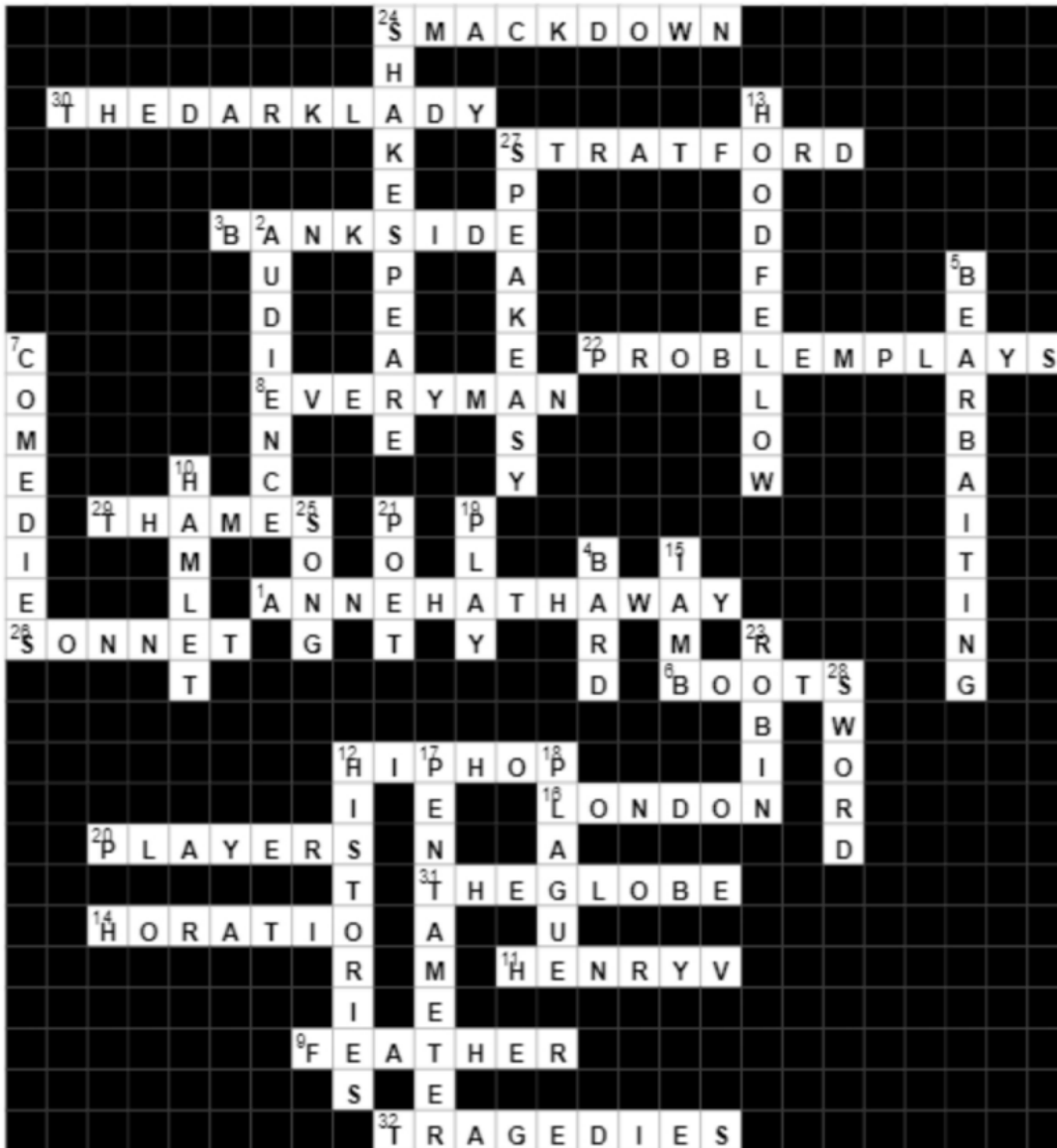
## Down

2. People who come to a performance (8)
4. A form of storyteller and a nickname for Shakespeare (4)
5. A violent form of entertainment during Shakespeare's time (11)
7. Plays that are humorous (8)
10. One of Shakespeare's most popular plays and characters (6)
12. Plays based on factual events (9)
13. Last name of a Speakeasy guide (10)
15. In poetry (4)
17. Poetic meter of Shakespeare's sonnets (10)
18. A terrible disease that Shakespeare feared (6)
19. A dramatic presentation featuring actors and usually has dialogue (4)
21. Someone who writes poems (4)
23. First name of a Speakeasy guide (5)
24. Considered the world's greatest playwright (11)
25. A composition that can have music and/or lyrics (4)
27. Last word in the show's title (9)
28. A weapon used in war (5)



# Classroom Activities

Answers to the Speakeasy Crossword Puzzle and some helpful hints:



1. Also the name of a famous actress
2. Those in front of the stage were called "groundlings" because they stood on the ground and were not seated
7. Shakespeare also wrote these
10. His longest play
- 12 (Across). C'mon... this is a give-away!
- 12 (Down). Shakespeare wrote 10 of these
15. The adjective of this word is normally paired with the answer to 2 across
17. Like Shakespeare, it often uses rhythmic speech to tell stories
18. It haunted Shakespeare's life because it kept returning: 1564, 1592, 1603, 1606, and 1613
19. Shakespeare may have written 40, but only 38 have survived
26. Created in Italy, Shakespeare wrote at least 154 of these
29. Shakespeare wrote 17 of these
30. She may have been Emelia Bassono
31. It burned down in 1613

# Post-Performance Classroom Activities

## Group Activities: The Sonnet-ist

A sonnet is a beautiful way to express feelings and experiences in a structured, artistic form. Have your students enjoy the process of creating their own sonnets! The **objective** of *The Sonnet-ist* is to have students learn about the structure and characteristics of a sonnet.

### Introduction:

- Explain that a sonnet is a **14-line poem** with a specific rhyme scheme and structure. The structure is (ABABCDCDEFEGG) and consist of three **quatrains** (sets of four lines) followed by the couplet.
- Define that a volta is a pivotal moment in a sonnet where the poet introduces a significant change or transition. This shift can be in thought, argument, perspective, or writing style. In a **Shakespearean sonnet**, the **volta** occurs before the final **couplet** (the last two lines). *Please note: the volta is challenging, even for professional writers. For this activity, it is okay for students to ignore the volta and focus on rhyme scheme and structure*
- For examples of sonnets, please visit [No Sweat Shakespeare](#).

### Activity:

#### *Analyze Examples:*

- Provide students with examples of Shakespearean sonnets.
- Discuss the rhyme schemes, themes, and emotions conveyed in each.

#### *Brainstorm Topics:*

- Have students brainstorm **personal topics** they'd like to write about in their sonnets.
- Encourage creativity and emotional expression (also humor).

#### *Drafting:*

- Instruct students to write a **14-line sonnet** following the traditional rhyme scheme of ABABCDCDEFEGG.

#### *Sharing:*

- Invite students to share their sonnets with the person sitting next to them. Have them discuss the different approaches and emotions conveyed.

# Glossary for the Show

## English History

*Queen E (Elizabeth I)* - The Queen of England from 1558 To 1603. She is the daughter of King Henry VIII (“the Ocho”) and Queen Anne Boleyn.

*Spanking on the Spanish* - The Spanish Armada, bent on attacking England, was the supreme naval power for generations. That is, until the English destroyed them in 1588. This marked England’s rise as a naval power.

*Harflour and Agincourt* - Two French towns conquered by Henry V when he invaded France. In the battle of Agincourt, Henry and the troops were outnumbered 3 to 1 but were victorious.

## 16th and 17th Century London Slang

*Coney catchers, cut-purses and cut-throats* - Con men, thieves and violent criminals inhabiting London.

*Skullduggery* - Underhanded plotting and tricky behavior in order to cheat someone.

*Gnashgab* - A rude gossip.

*Ragabrash* - A scoundrel; a ragged, disreputable-looking person.

*Muckspout* - Someone who uses a lot of swear words.

*Mumble-crusts* - A toothless beggar.

*Fustylugs* - A ponderous clumsy person.

*Goon* - A violent thug whose services can be bought.

*Chinks* - Coin currency (So called because of the sound the coins make).

## 16th and 17th Century London Entertainment

*Elizabethan Theatre* - A very popular genre. Unlike much of theatre today, the subject matter of plays during this era were heavily policed and censored.

*Bear-baiting* - A form of entertainment in which a bear fought with rabid, hungry dogs. The bear was tied to a stake to both give the dogs a fighting chance and to prevent the bear from escaping or harming someone in the audience.

*Rooster-fighting* - Two roosters thrown together to fight.

# Glossary for the Show

## The Plays

*Play* - A performance where actors exchange dialogue. Plays often utilize costumes, setting, movement and stage directions. Shakespeare wrote 38 plays divided into **Histories** (Dramatic plays based upon historic events), **Tragedies** (Heavily dramatic plays where many people die), **Comedies** (Humorous plays that often end in a marriage).

*Problem Plays* - Plays that don't fit into History, Tragedy, or Comedy.

*Hamlet* - A tragedy written by Shakespeare. It is his longest play.

*Henry V (The Play)* - One of Shakespeare's "Henry plays". It is a History play depicting the battles of Harflour and Agincourt won by Henry V, King of England from 1413-1422.

## The Poems

*Iamb* - In lines of verse there are words and syllables which are unstressed (have a bit less emphasis) and stressed (have a bit more emphasis). Ex: Say the word "instead". Most likely you placed less emphasis on the "in" part of the word and more on the "stead" part.

*Iambic Pentameter* - A line with 5 iambs in a row.

*Sonnet* - A 14-line poem, usually about love, written in iambic pentameter. The sonnet was not invented in England, but because Shakespeare became the most famous sonneteer in history (He wrote at least 154 of them), we tend to use his name to describe the type of sonnets he practiced.

*Hot 14* - The basic verse in hip-hop is 16-lines, known as a "hot 16". A "hot 14" is a name we've made up for our sonnet.

*Blank Verse* - A text written in iambic pentameter that does not rhyme. Shakespeare used this a lot in his work.

*Henry Wriothesley* (pronounced– Risley) - A nobleman and patron of Shakespeare's to whom Shakespeare dedicated his long poem *Venus and Adonis*. It is rumored that, because Henry's mother, Mary Wriothesley, wanted Henry to find a wife and settle down, she hired Shakespeare to write Henry a suite of poems that would convince him to do so. He is thought to be the "fair youth" of many of Shakespeare's sonnets.

*The Dark Lady* - A mysterious woman Shakespeare wrote about in at least 26 of his sonnets.



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