



# Exploring Shakespeare

Language Arts, Drama, Literature

TVO 2000

**SOL for ALL EPISODES: English: 8.3, 9.3, 9.5, 10.3, 10.6, 11.6, 12.3, 12.6**

**Theater: TI.7, TI.8, TI.11, TII.9, TII.11, TII.12, TII.13**

4 15-minute programs for grades 9-12

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EXPLORING SHAKESPEARE provides uncut, pure text from Shakespeare's plays for study in the high school classroom. The goal of the series is to provide teachers with simple renditions to support their own lesson plans, as an alternative to the opulent productions of Hollywood, allowing an opportunity to discuss the contrast to such productions. The series includes key segments from four of the most studied works of Shakespeare. The programs-on Hamlet, Macbeth, King Lear, and Julius Caesar-can be used in the study of one play or to compare and contrast the works. Each program contains various segments of the particular play to show the progression of story elements such as plot and character.

**101. Hamlet** - The personal journey of Hamlet-depicted through segments from the following key speeches/soliloquies (opening lines are indicated):

Act 1, Scene 2: "O, that this too, too solid flesh would melt, Thaw and resolve itself into a dew!"

Act 3, Scene 1: "To be, or not to be; that is the question:"

Act 2, Scene 2: "Now I am alone. O, what a rogue and peasant slave am I!"

Act 5, Scene 1: "Alas, poor Yorick; I knew him Horatio: a fellow of infinite jest, of most excellent fancy."

Act 5, Scene 2: "There's a special providence in the fall of a sparrow."

**Synopsis:** Through five speeches, we follow the inner life of Hamlet through the play. We begin with Hamlet's disgust at himself and at the situation he finds himself. Next, we go on to examine his longing to leave the world and how his indecision finally breaks through into a resolve of action. We then move to the end of the play, and see Hamlet's realization of human mortality and his final acceptance.

**102. Macbeth** - The relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth-depicted through segments from the following key scenes (opening lines are indicated):

Act 1, Scene 7: "If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well  
It were done quickly."

Act 2, Scene 2: "My husband!" "I have done the deed. Didst thou not hear a noise?"

Act 5, Scene 1: "Yet here's a spot. Out, damned spot! out, I say!"

Act 5, Scene 5: "I have almost forgot the taste of fears;"

**Synopsis:** These scenes follow the respective paths of the two Macbeths. In the first scene, Lady Macbeth convinces her husband to kill Duncan. The second, just after the murder, shows Macbeth's panic and Lady Macbeth's resolve. Then we examine how each deals with guilt after time: Lady Macbeth is destroyed by it and goes mad in the sleepwalking scene, while Macbeth, just before the final battle, reaches a point of total despair.

**103. King Lear** -Lear's descent into madness depicted through segments from the following key scenes (opening lines are indicated):

Act 1, Scene 3: "How now, what art thou?..."

Act 1, Scene 5: "If a man's brains . . ."

Act 3, Scene 2: "Blow, winds, and crack your cheeks. . ."

Act 3, Scene 4: "Here is the place. . ."

**Synopsis:** These scenes follow King Lear through his journey into madness. In the first scene, he meets the disguised

Kent and banters amiably with him and the Fool. In the second scene, a troubled dialogue with the Fool suddenly gives way to fears of madness. The third scene finds

Lear raging against the elements on the heath, and our final scene shows Lear praying for comprehension and salvation.

**104. Julius Caesar** - The relationship of Brutus and Cassius-depicted through segments from the following key scenes (opening lines are indicated):

Act 1, Scene 2: "Brutus, I do observe you now of late. . ."

Act 2, Scene 1: "It must be by his death . . ."

Act 4, Scene 2/3: "Most noble brother, you have done me wrong..."

**Synopsis:** In these three scenes we look at the character of Brutus, and how he and Cassius work out their troubled relationship. In the first scene, Cassius plants the seeds of revolution in Brutus' mind by discussing the problem of Caesar's power. The second scene is a soliloquy in which Brutus decides to kill Caesar. The third scene takes place after the assassination, with all of Rome at war, and Brutus and Cassius fighting over their own personal concerns.

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