

# Worksheet n° 1

## Objectives :

**The Play :** Understanding the plot and the context of the play

**Culture :** Getting to know Shakespeare

## Blog link

 Listening comprehension : Listen to **Jeffrey Bracco** telling about how he came to write ShakesPod. *Will be posted Dec 4<sup>th</sup>*

## Get set


### What's on your iPod?

- Do you have an iPod or an MP3 player? What playlists do you have?
- Do you share your playlists?
- We are curious to know other people's musical taste. In magazines, famous people are often asked what they have on their iPods. Do you think it is right to judge people by the kind of music they listen they listen to?

## On your own

➡ Internet Have a look at this site on which you can add your favourite songs to playlists: [This page is a playlist of songs about books... http://www.mixmatcher.com/playlist\\_view.asp?plid=807](http://www.mixmatcher.com/playlist_view.asp?plid=807)

➡ Find you favourite artists playlists on the Internet. What do they listen to ?

 Life is random. [Watch the video and see what an iPod shuffle is. Can you explain the title of the video? http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9T3S6rXq0JQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9T3S6rXq0JQ)

## Read & understand

### The Plot

**Intermediate** Have a look at the document “ShakesPod playlist”. Read the short summary and underline all the words related to iPods.

**A pun** is a “play on words”. Very often, it is based on the double meaning or of words (double entendre).

- Can you explain our puns in “**playlist**” and “**podcast**” “**ShakesPod**”? In theatre, what is a play and what is the cast?
- What is the meaning of “on shuffle”? For a playlist? In the summary?

- The author chose the title out of three. Which one do you prefer? Can you think of any other titles?

**ShakesP3**

**ShakesPod**

**i-Bard**

*Focus on technology: Do you know what i-Pod stands for?*

**Pod** : une nacelle de vaisseau spatial ; une cosse ; mais un acronyme a aussi été inventé : 'Personal on Demand'

**iPod** : marque commerciale de lecteur média portable.

**MP3** : abréviation de MPEG Audio Layer 3, (Motion Picture Expert Group)


### Advanced

**A quotation** is a sentence or a phrase by somebody else that you use in a new text. In the summary there are 3 famous quotations by Shakespeare (*in italics*). Can you spot them? They are from three different famous plays: *As You Like It*; *Hamlet*; *The Tempest*. Can you match each quotation with the right play?

**Answer** : *all the world's a stage (from As You Like It)* - *a brave new world (The Tempest)* - *the slings and arrows (Hamlet)*

### Humour

 **iPod Flea** : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uyGpGbjVePM>

 **Personal on Demand**. To work with the German teacher, but even if you do not learn German, you can understand the message in the video ...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itknj85LYOw&NR>

## The Language of Shakespeare

What do you think?		
1. Shakespeare had his plays published when he was alive.	Right	Wrong
2. Shakespeare loved puns.	Right	Wrong
3. Shakespeare invented many words.	Right	Wrong
4. He never used insults in his plays.	Right	Wrong
5. Shakespeare is called The Bard	Right	Wrong
6. The English in the play is exactly what Shakespeare wrote.	Right	Wrong
<b>YOUR SCORE</b>		

### Answers :



1. **Wrong.** Seven years after Shakespeare's death, two of his friends who were actors too, edited and assembled the first complete edition of all the plays. There were about 1,000 copies, of which 240 still exist.
2. **Right.** For instance, in *Macbeth*, there are more than 140 puns.
3. **Right.** "It is estimated that he used between 25,000 and 29,000 different words in his plays and poems."

Adults use an average of 5,000 words.

4. **Wrong.** He used a lot of insults and invectives. Some were witty but they could also be very rude.
5. **Right.**
6. **Wrong.** There is no handwritten manuscript of Shakespeare's plays, and we have several versions of published texts!



**"To be or not to be..."** Did Shakespeare really write these words?

See this very interesting site with sounds and video <http://www.ciconline.org/bdp1/>

(Don't skip the introduction. After a few seconds of video, you have a very simple and interesting soundtrack you can use as an oral comprehension to get the answer to the above question.)

## ShakesPod PlayList

### Drama Ties Theatre Company



#### SHAKESPOD

Genre : Drama  
Release date : 13 February 2007  
Total : 5 tracks

Buy

Recommend

An original electronic production  
based on excerpts  
of William Shakespeare's plays

Encounter Shakespeare  
like never before! Recharged with  
scenes, recharged with songs,  
recharged with life!

A teenage girl is in love—with her iPod!  
Suddenly, when her usually reliable music player,  
only plays Shakespeare, her life is on shuffle!  
School, friends, family —*all the world's a stage*  
when she plugs in and everyone around her  
speaks in blank verse!  
But when her parents force her to marry someone  
she does not love, she decides her own fate  
by running away. Her adventures take her into a *brave  
new world* where, with the help of her ShakesPod, she  
experiences *the slings and arrows* of love,  
identity and growing up.

Track	Title	In ShakesPod	Based on ...	
1	All the World	Act I scene i	As You Like It	Download
2	From Astro-Physics to Open Rebellion	Act I scene iii	Julius Caesar	Download
3	Daydream Believer	Act II scene i	The Taming of the Shrew	Download
4	Arranged Marriage	Act II scene ii	Romeo and Juliet	Download
5	Advice for Young Lovers	Act III scene iv	As You Like It	Download

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## Action

### Make your own survey about Shakespeare

- Form groups, having each group choose a different topic (i.e. his life, his plays, most famous quotations, most well-known characters, etc.) and collect answers.
- The class puts all the results together and makes a poster or publishes it on the school website. You can also send us your results and we will publish them on the ShakesBlog.

## Go Further...



### Intermediate

#### Shakespeare's real portrait

- Which is Shakespeare's real portrait?
- Have a look at the playlist document. Which portrait have we chosen to make our poster? All the portraits are turned to the left, can you think of the reason why we turned our portrait to the other side? <sup>1</sup>



- Have a look at the 6 rival portraits on the Guardian website

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/gall/0,,1721587,00.html>

-  Interview of The Director of the National Gallery (short) and the gallery on NPR (National Public Radio)

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5242000>

- Written article on the BBC : Shakespeare Portrait is a Fake


<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/entertainment/4471515.stm>

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<sup>1</sup> The real portrait is said to be n° 4. The Chandos Portrait.

## Advanced

### Learn more about Shakespeare's style

	Here are some techniques Shakespeare used in his plays. Find the definition and/or a translation for each.
<b>Puns</b>	
<b>Blank verse</b>	
<b>Metaphors</b>	
<b>Soliloquies</b>	
<b>Asides</b>	
<b>Conceits</b>	

### Answers :

- **Puns** : play on words.
- **Blank verse** : lines of 5 feet. Each beat consisting of unstressed followed by stressed syllable. Also known as iambic pentameter.
- **Metaphors** : comparing something to something else.
- **Soliloquy** : An actor talking to himself.
- **Asides** : Saying something to the audience that other players can't hear.
- **Conceits** : Extravagant and fanciful ideas.



### Go Further...

### Advanced

Did Shakespeare really write all this?

**[WILL THE REAL WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE PLEASE STAND UP](http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/pages/webshakespera.html)**  
An Internet WebQuest on the Shakespearean Authorship Question

<http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/pages/webshakespera.html>