




This pack has been created to enable students to explore, create, research, write and produce drama and theatre-related materials at home. The activities are not linked to any specific curriculum or exam requirements but it is intended to be a pack of generic tasks that will suit a range of curriculum requirements.

This pack is suitable for upper KS2 students (US grades 3-6) but could also be helpful for some younger and older students.

The pack contains 3 short script extracts. These are sample pages from original scripts published by Arts On The Move, so full scripts are available. Most of the activities are based around each script extract. I have assumed that students will have access to mobiles and the internet but there are a number of activities that don't require these.

Index of Script Extracts:

-  Hamlet, the Murder Mystery (an adaptation of the Shakespeare play)
-  Sausages For Tea (a mini play set during WW2)
-  The History of the Theatre, Part One! (the origins of theatre up to Shakespeare's time)

Activities based on the scripts are organised into four areas:

- Performance activities
- Research activities
- Art and Design activities
- Writing activities

In every Performance activity I have asked students to create a film of the script extract.

Teachers can elect not to have films emailed to the school – please let your students know – but any completed films can be emailed to me. I will then upload them to the Arts On The Move YouTube channel and will provide the student's school with a free copy of the complete play script.

Additional Activities at the back of the pack include further scriptwriting and performance ideas.

I hope you find this pack useful. If you have any suggestions for additional material, or would like to give feedback, please email [info@artsonthemove.co.uk](mailto:info@artsonthemove.co.uk) - I'd love to hear from you!

Alison Chaplin, Arts On The Move, [www.artsonthemove.co.uk](http://www.artsonthemove.co.uk)

# HAMLET, THE MURDER MYSTERY

## Performance Activities:

- Act out the script with family or friends. Or play each role yourself by using different voices and changing an item of clothing to indicate a change of character. You can record this if you like!
- Create a short film of these two scenes. Use puppets – spoons, socks, pegs, pencils, plasticine, lego, toys, dolls, even fruit or veg! – to represent the characters or, if you have willing friends or family members, get them to perform the script for you. Produce your film and repeat the recording if you're not happy with how it looks and sounds. Keep working and editing until you are happy with the finished film. Your film can then be emailed to your school (ask for details) and to [info@artsonthemove.co.uk](mailto:info@artsonthemove.co.uk)

## Research Activities:

- The theme of Hamlet is 'revenge'. Find and read at least three other stories with the same theme and use one to write a short play script with a 'revenge' theme.
- Research the life of William Shakespeare. List five facts about his life and the times he lived in.

## Art and Design Activities:

- Create a comic book version of the script pages using drawings, short descriptions of the action and speech bubbles for the characters, reducing the number of words they say.
- Write and design a poster promoting a performance of the play, using persuasive language, description and images to attract an audience. Research other theatre posters before you begin to give you an idea of how they should look.

## Writing Activities:

- Write Scene Five as a Police Report. Think about using 'official' language, what details you need to include and how to make your report look and sound professional.
- Write a page of Horatio's personal diary for the day he was interviewed by the police. Was he worried, upset, afraid, angry? Use descriptive language to express his emotions about being questioned by the police.

# THE HISTORY OF THE THEATRE – PART ONE!

## Performance Activities:

- Create a short film of these two scenes. Use puppets – spoons, socks, pegs, pencils, plasticine, lego, toys, dolls, even fruit or veg! – to represent the characters or, if you have willing friends or family members, get them to perform the script for you. Produce your film and repeat the recording if you're not happy with how it looks and sounds. Keep working and editing until you are happy with the finished film. Your film can then be emailed to your school (ask for details) and to [info@artsonthemove.co.uk](mailto:info@artsonthemove.co.uk)
- Write and perform a monologue (a solo speech) given by Arion on his feelings about the changes in theatre styles and how he sees theatre developing in the future. Record yourself performing it and assess your performance – think about tone, volume, inflection, expression, characterisation and believability. Keep rewriting and re-performing until you have a performance that you're happy with.

## Research Activities:

- Create a television documentary about one of the Greek playwrights. Include interviews with them, comments from audience members and opinions from 'specialists'. Present this, using toys or other props – or willing family and friends! – as 'performers' and make a recording of it.
- Create a timeline for the history of the theatre, from its origins up to the arrival of William Shakespeare. Make a note of all of the important playwrights and when they lived. Look at theatre from around the world for this.

## Art and Design Activities:

- Design and draw the costume for any of the characters in the script extract, giving reasons for your choice of colour and materials and explaining how the designs reflect the historical and geographical setting.
- Write and design a poster promoting a performance of the play, using persuasive language, description and images to attract an audience. Research other theatre posters before you begin to give you an idea of how they should look.

## Writing Activities:

- Write an additional scene for the play, using your theatre timeline as a guide for how theatre developed.
- Explore the layout of the script. Look at how the stage directions are written, how the scenes are structured, and other conventions. Explain these in writing, as if you're giving instructions for setting out a play script.

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Devise, develop and write monologues (solo speeches) using the following first lines...

- I've got an apology to make...
- Trust you to spoil everything!
- Can you keep a secret?
- Will you lend me...?
- You'll never believe what just happened!
- I need to tell you something...

Devise, develop and write short scripted scenes based on the following ideas...

- Three friends who all want to do something different on a day out.
- What happens when siblings break a special family ornament when they're left home alone.
- If you always tell lies, no one will believe you when you tell the truth.
- Slow and steady wins the race.
- A waxwork comes to life.

Create a TV advert for...

- A bionic arm
- Blue Smarties
- Planting more trees
- A new chocolate bar called Plop.
- Pink socks
- Books
- Unicorns for all

...perform these for your family and friends!