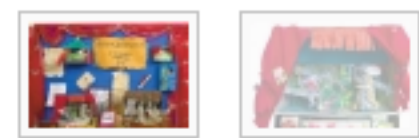


Crafty Ideas: **Shakespeare Story Box**

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A Shakespeare Story Box created by a group of Year 6 pupils.



A biographical story box is a creative way for children to consolidate and explore the things that they have learned about a historical figure.

This example shows the life of William Shakespeare, but the same approach can be taken for any person from the Tudor period, or indeed other historical eras.

**You will need:**

- A shoebox
- Fabrics
- Paper
- Card
- Wire
- PVA
- Various collage materials

**Use**

Use Shakespeare's Story Box as part of your project work in history or literacy. The activity makes an ideal homework or classroom project. It would also be ideal as a follow up visit to the Globe Theatre.

**Make**

- ➔ Explain the concept of a biographical story box – a 3D space into which to arrange objects, images and text that tell us a story about someone's life and work.
- ➔ Give children the brief to design a story box based on the life and works of William Shakespeare. Tell them that the aim of the exercise is for them to use their imaginations and a range of different resources to fill and decorate the box.
- ➔ Start with some storytelling. Pick one or two of Shakespeare's plays and read versions of them using language that children will understand. (*Shakespeare Stories* retold by Andrew Matthews and illustrated by Tony Ross are ideal). Discuss the characters and the tone of the story. For costume ideas, have a look at the Globe Theatre website.
- ➔ Suggest some themes for the story boxes e.g. houses, suitcases or the stage.
- ➔ Relax and give the children a free rein.

**Tip**

The resources list contains a list of suggested items but children may use any materials they wish – as long as they will fit into a shoebox.

**Display**

Make a backdrop that's appropriate for a Shakespeare display. You could use red fabric to create the impression of stage curtains. Add a title and some key images or facts about Shakespeare. You could also add some Shakespeare quotes, such as 'Better three hours too soon than a minute too late' or 'And oftentimes excusing of a fault doth make the fault the worse by the excuse'. Staple some of the children's story boxes to the wall. Arrange others on a table in front of the display.

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Adapted from:



**Belair On Display - Hands on History**  
Shakespeare Story Box

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**Useful Links**

[➔ www.shakespearesglobe.com](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com)