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Product Code Y530-A

SHAKESPEARE for KIDS!

Introducing Eight Works by William Shakespeare Made Easy!

By

Melissa Scher & Michelle Lema

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Shakespeare for Kids!

by
Melissa Scher & Michelle Lema

Introducing Eight Works by William Shakespeare Made Easy!
Up to 80 Characters that can be played by an Entire Class or
6 M / 4 F

Playing time: Approximately 55 minutes*

*Scenes may be cut as needed to fit the desired time frame

SELECTED WORKS INCLUDE:

Romeo and Juliet
Julius Caesar
Macbeth
Hamlet
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Twelfth Night
The Taming of the Shrew
Henry V

CHARACTERS:

Narrators
HAMNET
JUDITH

Romeo and Juliet
ROMEO
JULIET
MERCUTIO
NURSE
TYBALT
MONTAGUE
LADY MONTAGUE
CAPULET
LADY CAPULET
FRIAR

Julius Caesar
JULIUS CAESAR
BRUTUS
OCTAVIUS
CASSIUS
TITINUS
CALPURNIA
SOOTHSAYER
MARC ANTONY
FIRST CITIZEN
SECOND CITIZEN
THIRD CITIZEN

Macbeth

MACBETH	SOLDIERS
BANQUO	FIRST WITCH
LADY MACBETH	SECOND WITCH
KING DUNCAN	THIRD WITCH
MALCOM	MACDUFF
DONALBAIN	PARTY GUESTS

Hamlet

HAMLET	GHOST
OPHELIA	POLONIUS
CLAUDIUS	PIRATES
GERTRUDE	LAERTES

A Midsummer Night's Dream

HERMIA	OBERON
HELENA	TITANIA
DEMESTRIUS	EGEUS
LYSANDER	BOTTOM
PUCK	THESEUS

Twelfth Night

CAPTAIN	ORSINO
VIOLA/CESARIO	OLIVIA
SEBASTIAN	ANTONIO

The Taming of the Shrew

BAPTISTA MILOLA	GREMIO
BIANCA	HORTENSIO
KATE	LUCENTIO
PETRUCHIO	

Henry V

HENRY V	SECOND TRAITOR
FRENCH KING	THIRD TRAITOR
KATHERINE	DAUPHIN
ENGLISH COURT	FIRST SOLDIER
FRENCH COURT	SECOND SOLDIER
FIRST TRAITOR	THIRD SOLDIER

Shakespeare for Kids!
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INTRODUCTION

(The CAST enters, singing to the tune of “ROW, ROW, ROW YOUR BOAT.”)

ALL CAST

*Do you know, know, know the man
Named William Shakespeare?
He wrote the plays
That changed our ways
Of acting theatre.*

(Transitioning to the tune of “THIS OLD MAN”, the CAST continues))

*This old man
Taught us art
He made us see a little part
Of the world you can make
When you take a little risk
Sit back, relax
And listen to our list:*

(Shouting in rhythm as a group or several within a group)

Romeo, Juliet,
Julius Caesar,
Hamlet, Twelfth Night,
Taming of the Shrew,

Macbeth, Henry,
Midsummer Night’s Dream—
We’ll share all of these if you please—

(Returning to the tune of “THIS OLD MAN”, the CAST resumes singing)

*Sit back, relax
And enjoy the show—
Prepare to learn and grow and know!
(Spoken) Know, know, know!*

(And transitioning once again to “ROW, ROW, ROW YOUR BOAT”)

*Do you know, know, know the man
Named William Shakespeare?
He wrote the plays
That changed our ways
Of acting theatre!*

(ALL exit, except for HAMNET & JUDITH.)

SCENE ONE

HAMNET

Welcome! Come one, come all to this spectacular showing of theatre.

JUDITH

We shall serve as your guides!

HAMNET

I, Hamnet,

JUDITH

And I, Judith,

HAMNET

Will lead you through the world of Shakespearean Theatre.

JUDITH

We may ask for your help!

HAMNET

When we do-

JUDITH

Raise your hand! You might have to yell or shout!

HAMNET

Let's Go!

(Enter HERMIA and LYSANDER as students)

HAMNET

Who is William Shakespeare?

JUDITH

William Shakespeare was a playwright who lived almost {500} years ago. A playwright is a person who writes stories to perform in a theatre like this one.

HAMNET

Once he began writing plays, he built a theatre to perform them in. But Shakespeare's theatre was not like this one.

JUDITH

His theatre was called the Globe because of its round shape.

HAMNET

The Globe had four areas for audience members just like you! Those with little money stood in a pit right in front of the stage.

JUDITH

Those who were neither rich nor poor sat either on the first, second or third balconies.

HAMNET

The King and Queen would sit on the stage in the very highest seats on a balcony.

JUDITH

Anybody want to be the King and Queen? Raise your hands!

(HERMIA & LYSANDER choose two children from the audience, dress them in crowns, and sit on stage with them.)

HAMNET

What wonderful royalty we have today!

JUDITH

Let's give them a round of applause!

HAMNET

Okay, time for the show. Ready, Set...

JUDITH

Wait!

HAMNET

What?

JUDITH

We are just going to perform the plays right now?

HAMNET

Yeah!

JUDITH

Well, if Shakespeare wrote his plays such a long time ago, then how are we going to understand them?

HAMNET

We are going to act out his plays in our own words.

JUDITH

Oh! That's neat.

HAMNET

Now on with the show!

(ROMEO and JULIET, JULIUS CAESAR and CALPURNIA, MACBETH and LADY MACBETH enter, along with HAMLET.)

HAMNET

We begin with Shakespeare's tragedies.

(Random "dramatic" noises by ALL)

JUDITH

Tragedies can be about life.

(HAMLET creates tableau)

HAMNET

Or jealousy and power.

(MACBETH and LADY MACBETH create tableau)

HAMNET

They can be about fear.

(CAESAR and CALPURNIA create tableau)

JUDITH

And they can even be about love.

(ROMEO and JULIET hold center in love pose)

HAMNET

But most of all, they always end up bad.

JUDITH

Let's give another round of applause for our King and Queen!

(Kids are sent back to seats as ROMEO and JULIET join in a waltz. The OTHERS exit.)

HAMNET

Have you ever been at the right place at the right time?

JUDITH

Or the wrong place at the wrong time?

HAMNET

Or the right place at the wrong time?

JUDITH & HAMNET

Yes.

(ROMEO and JULIET stop waltzing and exit.)

JUDITH

This is the story of *Romeo and Juliet*. Two people who couldn't find the right place or the right time.

HAMNET

By William Shakespeare.

JUDITH

We begin in Verona.

HAMNET

Italy! Two families have been arguing for many years. They are enemies.

JUDITH

The Montagues; Romeo.

ROMEO

(Entering) Hi.

JUDITH

Romeo's best friend Mercutio—

MERCUTIO

(Entering) Hey.

JUDITH

...and Romeo's parents.

MONTAGUE & LADY MONTAGUE

(Entering) Good Morrow!

HAMNET

(As JULIET and the CAPULETS enter along with TYBALT and NURSE) Here are the Capulets; Juliet.

JULIET

Hi!

HAMNET

Juliet's cousin Tybalt.

TYBALT

Hey.

HAMNET

Juliet's Nurse—

NURSE

Hello.

HAMNET

—and Juliet's parents

CAPULET & LADY CAPULET

Good Morrow!

HAMNET

The Capulet's are having a party...

JUDITH

But the Montagues aren't invited.

(MONTAGUES exit except for ROMEO and MERCUTIO)

HAMNET

Romeo and Mercutio sneak into the Capulet's party to take a look around.

ROMEO

(Pointing at JULIET) Who's that?

MERCUTIO

I don't know, go find out.

(ROMEO starts towards JULIET just as she turns.)

Hi. ROMEO

Hi. JULIET

You're really pretty. ROMEO

Thank you. You're pretty too. JULIET

Aw. Shucks. ROMEO

(ROMEO kisses JULIET on the cheek.)

You kiss by the book. JULIET

(Calling) Juliet! NURSE

That's my Nurse. I have to go. JULIET

(More insistent) JULIET! NURSE

Anon, Nurse, I'm coming! JULIET

When can I see you again? ROMEO

I don't know! JULIET

(JULIET runs off.)

(Lovesick) Oh woe is me!! ROMEO

MERCUTIO

What's wrong?

ROMEO

I'm in love! Nothing is wrong!

MERCUTIO

So who is the lucky lady?

(ROMEO and MERCUTIO freeze as focus shifts to NURSE and JULIET.)

JULIET

I'm in love with that boy.

NURSE

That boy?

JULIET

Yup that one! *(Points)* He's my love.

NURSE

But that's Romeo! He's a Montague. Your father's only enemy!

(JULIET gasps as the focus returns to ROMEO and MERCUTIO.)

ROMEO

I'm in love with that girl.

MERCUTIO

(Pointing at JULIET) That girl?

ROMEO

Yup, that one. She's my love.

MERCUTIO

But that's Juliet! She's a Capulet! Your father's only enemy!

(ROMEO gasps. MERCUTIO and NURSE exit to opposite sides of playing area. ROMEO and JULIET cross to new positions.)

HAMNET

Later that night, Romeo went into Juliet's backyard to try to talk to her.

JUDITH

Juliet happened to be standing on her balcony.

(JULIET leans against the back of a chair, resting her hand upon her cheek.)

ROMEO

But soft, what light through yonder window breaks. It is the east and Juliet is the sun.
Now I will try to get her attention.

(As JULIET stares off dreamily into the night, ROMEO pantomimes throwing pebbles at her window. MERCUTIO creates the 'tink' sound of pebble hitting the window. On the third pebble as JULIET turns around to figure out who is throwing them, the pebble hits her in the eye.)

JULIET

Oh, curses!

ROMEO

Oh, my love!

JULIET

Oh *my* love!

ROMEO

I missed you!

JULIET

I missed you, too! It's been...five minutes!

ROMEO

Too long! Let's get married.

JULIET

Okay! When?

ROMEO

Tomorrow. Send to me at the hour of nine.

(ROMEO and JULIET exit.)

JUDITH

Juliet then tells her Nurse—

NURSE

(Taking step down and waiving) Hello!

JUDITH

—about her marriage to Romeo and the Nurse agrees to keep it a secret.

HAMNET
Romeo tells the Friar—

FRIAR
(Entering) Hey!

HAMNET
—about Juliet, and the Friar agrees to marry them secretly.
(ROMEO and JULIET enter and join the FRIAR.)

FRIAR
You are now married!

ALL CAST
(From Offstage) Awwww!
(ROMEO kisses JULIET's cheek.)

ALL CAST
(From offstage) Ewwwww!

JUDITH
Romeo leaves Juliet to tell his best friend Mercutio of his happiness.
(JULIET, FRIAR and NURSE exit as ROMEO sees MERCUTIO enter, followed by TYBALT.)

HAMNET
But Romeo and Mercutio are stopped by Juliet's cousin Tybalt.

TYBALT
Your best friend Romeo is a villain.

MERCUTIO
You are a villain.

TYBALT
No you are!

MERCUTIO
You are!

TYBALT
You are!

MERCUTIO

Let's duel!

(A set of inflatable weapons are thrown to them)

ROMEO

No, don't fight!

(MERCUTIO and TYBALT fight; MERCUTIO falls.)

MERCUTIO

A plague on both your houses!

(MERCUTIO dies.)

ROMEO

(Grief-stricken) Mercutio—!

(ROMEO takes up Mercutio's weapon and fights TYBALT. TYBALT falls.)

ROMEO

(Looking at the fallen TYBALT) What have I done?

HAMNET

Romeo was then banished from Verona.

(ROMEO runs off.)

JUDITH

Juliet heard about Romeo's banishment and the death of her cousin, Tybalt and was very sad and confused.

JULIET

I am very sad and confused! I love Romeo with all my heart but he destroyed my cousin Tybalt! What shall I do?

ROMEO

(Leaning in from offstage) Psst! Psst! Juliet!

JULIET

Romeo? Is that you, Romeo?

ROMEO

Yes my love! Run away with me?

JULIET

Oh, Of course! I am no longer sad and confused!

(ROMEO exits.)

JUDITH

Romeo then went to a nearby city to hide until Juliet could join him. *(JULIET crosses to the FRIAR)* Juliet needed a plan to escape, so she went to the Friar and asked for help.

HAMNET

The Friar—

FRIAR

Hey.

HAMNET

—gave Juliet a sleeping potion so her family thought she was dead.

(JULIET lies down and sleeps. GASPS are heard from the CAPULET family as THEY enter. The FRIAR exits. THE CAPULETS “carry” JULIET to one side of playing area.)

HAMNET

The Friar also sent a letter to Romeo telling him that Juliet was actually alive.

JUDITH

But Romeo didn't get the letter in time, and thought Juliet was dead.

(The funeral procession ends and the CAPULETS exit.)

HAMNET

Romeo hurried to Juliet's side. He was so sad that Juliet was gone, he drank poison.

(ROMEO drinks poison, lies down near JULIET, and dies.)

JUDITH

Juliet awoke to find Romeo dead, and didn't want to live without him.

(JULIET drinks some of the poison, lies near ROMEO and dies.)

HAMNET

(The MONTAGUES and CAPULETS enter) Romeo and Juliet's families saw what happened to their children and decided to stop fighting.

JUDITH

For never was there a story of more woe, than this of Juliet and her Romeo.

(ROMEO and JULIET cast exits. HAMNET speaks to the audience.)

SCENE TWO

HAMNET

How many of you want to be a professional athlete one day?

(Pause for response from audience)

JUDITH

Or a movie star?

(Pause again.)

HAMNET

Now that's what I call ambition. You have dreams for what you want to be—and you go for them!

JUDITH

Ambition? Well that reminds me of the play *Julius Caesar*. By William Shakespeare.

HAMNET

Set in ancient Rome, *Julius Caesar* is about ambition and jealousy.

JUDITH

We begin our story at a big party in Rome!

HAMNET

Julius Caesar was the greatest leader Rome had ever known and many people wanted him to be King.

(The Cast of JULIUS CAESER enters, except for CALPURNIA and the SOOTHSAYER.)

FIRST CITIZEN

Oh, Caesar, take this crown and be our king.

JULIUS CAESAR

I couldn't possibly. Please.

SECOND CITIZEN

Oh, great Caesar, take this crown and be our King.

JULIUS CAESAR

Well...no, stop! Stop...please.

THIRD CITIZEN

Oh, wonderful, extraordinary Caesar, take this crown and be our King!

JULIUS CAESAR

I am not worthy. Please!

(BRUTUS, OCTAVIUS, CASSIUS, and TITINUS run into the audience; CAESAR and the CITIZENS exit.)

JUDITH

Caesar didn't want to be King!

HAMNET

And some members of the senate didn't want him to be King either. . . .

BRUTUS

Senate;

OCTAVIUS

A group of elected officials who vote to decide the laws of Rome.

CASSIUS

A senate relies on the idea that every Citizen is equal.

TITINUS

If Caesar is appointed King of Rome, the balance of Rome's government will be uneven.

BRUTUS

It is our job, as

BRUTUS, CASSIUS, TITINUS & OCTAVIUS
SENATORS OF ROME!

BRUTUS

To protect the citizens from a tyrant.

TITINUS

We must destroy Caesar! LIBERTY FOR ROME!

BRUTUS, OCTAVIUS & CASSIUS
LIBERTY FOR ROME!

(CAESAR enters from one direction as CALPURNIA enters opposite. The SENATORS hide in audience.)

JUDITH

Caesar is on the way to the capitol to have a meeting with the senators but is stopped by his wife, Calpurnia.

CALPURNIA

My husband, Caesar, I had a bad dream. Last night, in my nightmare, which I had while I was sleeping last night, I dreamt, that the senators of Rome tried to kill you. Please do not go to the capitol to meet with the senators today.

JULIUS CAESAR

(As if she has just praised him) Please, stop, I am only one man.

CALPURNIA

Farewell then Caesar. You shall leave and go on your way. Adieu. Goodbye. Chao. Adios. Auf Wiedersehen.

JULIUS CAESAR

(Arrogantly) Shhhhhhh. Please.

(CALPURNIA exits.)

HAMNET

Caesar continues to travel to the capitol to meet with the senators. *(SOOTHSAYER enters)* Along the way, he runs into a Soothsayer who can predict the future.

SOOTHSAYER

Beware Caesar!! Beware!! A terrible thing is waiting to happen! Go home Caesar! Go –

JULIUS CAESAR

No autographs, please!

SOOTHSAYER

No, Caesar, I just –

JULIUS CAESAR

Alright! Alright! *(CAESAR magically pulls out his own headshot and signs it.)* There you go.

SOOTHSAYER

But—

JULIUS CAESAR

Shhhhhhhhhhh.

(CAESEAR dismisses the SOOTHSAYER with a wave of his hand. The SOOTHSAYER shakes his head and crosses to one side of the playing area to observe.)

JUDITH

Caesar ignores the warning given to him by the SOOTHSAYER and continues to the capitol to meet the senators.

(CAESAR turns upstage and walks in place as he is “traveling.”)

BRUTUS

(Rising in the audience) I, Brutus, the leader of the senators, vow to destroy Caesar today.

(CAESAR walks up.)

JULIUS CAESAR

Did someone say something?

BRUTUS

No, no. Nothing.

(SENATORS echo with fake smiles.)

JULIUS CAESAR

Please, don't flatter me.

(CAESAR walks downstage to deliver the following pompous speech.)

JULIUS CAESAR

No autographs, please. As I have said before, I am but one man. I can only do so much. I would like you to collect some berries for a beautiful feast and eat them and run around in circles. Yes. Now I know this may sound ridiculous, but I know what I am talking about. Take it from me. Please. Silence. I am speaking.

(As this is going on the senators are slowly sneaking up on CAESAR. HAMNET and JUDITH should be encouraging the audience to warn CAESAR about the senators creeping up behind him. The “silence” that CAESAR insists upon can only happen if the audience members are trying to tell him that the Senators are going to kill him.)

BRUTUS

And now dear Caesar, we come to destroy you.

JULIUS CAESAR

Please. Please. *(As if they paid him the best compliment in the world, then realizing THEY mean to harm him)* Please?

(The SENATORS attack CAESAR.)

JULIUS CAESAR

Eh, too, Brute?

(CAESAR falls and dies.)

HAMNET

Then, Caesars good friend Marc Antony arrives.

(MARC ANTONY enters; the SENATORS hide in the audience.)

MARC ANTONY

(Discovering the fallen CAESAR) My dear Caesar! How could this happen? I, Marc Antony, your best and most loyal friend, must make sure something good comes out of this. Rest easy my friend. Your enemies will be punished for taking you away from the people of Rome!

(The CITIZENS enter and cheer on Marc Antony.)

MARC ANTONY

(To audience) Friends, Romans, Countrymen, lend me your ears.

SENATORS

Boooooo!

MARC ANTONY

Please. I come not to bury Caesar, but to praise him.

FIRST, SECOND, & THIRD CITIZEN

Yea!

JUDITH

Marc Antony doesn't want the people of Rome to mourn Caesar. He wants them to celebrate his life.

MARC ANTONY

The evil men do lives after them. I am going to go to war with you Brutus! To get you back for making Caesar fall.

BRUTUS

Bring it on Antony!

HAMNET & JUDITH

There was a war.

(The CITIZENS and MARC ANTONY "fight" The SENATORS.)

HAMNET

And eventually

JUDITH

Marc Antony's side won!

HAMNET

Brutus felt so bad for what he did to Caesar, he couldn't handle it! If he had made Caesar fall, he would fall too!

BRUTUS

Caesar, now be still.

(BRUTUS falls and dies.)

JUDITH

And so we conclude the story of *Julius Caesar*.

SCENE THREE

HAMNET

Let's move on to another tragedy with a different kind of leader...

JUDITH

You mean a King?

HAMNET

That's exactly what I mean....

(MACBETH, BANQUO, and SOLDIERS enter on imaginary horses and singing as THEY gallop.)

MACBETH, BANQUO & SOLDIERS

*The arms go marching one by one hurrah, hurrah
The arms go marching one by one hurrah, hurrah
The arms go marching one by one a little one stops to suck his thumb
And they all go marching down to the ground to get out of the rain*

*The arms go marching two by two hurrah, hurrah
The arms go marching two by two hurrah, hurrah
The arms go marching two by two a little one stops to tie his shoe
And they all go marching down to the ground to get out of the rain*

MACBETH

Men...GO HOME!!!

(SOLDIERS exit.)

HAMNET

Ah yes, we almost forgot!

JUDITH

The story of *Macbeth*!

HAMNET

By...well you know who by now!

JUDITH

William Shakespeare!

MACBETH

Well, Banquo, my good man, only a couple hundred more miles until we get home!

BANQUO

Yes, Macbeth. Shall we?

(MACBETH and BANQUO start to ride away as the THREE WITCHES creep out on stage.)

FIRST WITCH

Macbeth, Macbeth, how are you today?

SECOND WITCH

Don't even think of running away!

THIRD WITCH

We have some secrets to tell you.

MACBETH

Okay, what can three witches tell me that I don't already know?

(MACBETH and BANQUO laugh.)

FIRST WITCH

Hail!

SECOND WITCH

Hail!

THIRD WITCH

Hail!

FIRST WITCH

Do you know a young King?

SECOND WITCH

Whom you thank for everything?

THIRD WITCH

You'll be in his place.

SECOND WITCH

He'll not have his face.

THIRD WITCH

And you will be King instead.

FIRST WITCH

Macbeth, we are the three witches and we have come to tell you that...

SECOND WITCH

You will be Thane of Cawdor and King.

THIRD WITCH

Banquo, thou shalt get kings, though thou be none.

(The THREE WITCHES exit.)

MACBETH

We must not take them seriously Banquo. We must keep on traveling, come on, let's go.

BANQUO

Hey, you're a poet.

MACBETH

And I didn't even know it.

HAMNET

Macbeth and Banquo arrive home and Lady Macbeth is waiting to greet her husband.

(LADY MACBETH enters and embraces MACBETH.)

LADY MACBETH

Oh Macbeth! I'm so happy you're home! How I've missed you!

BANQUO

Well, I'm off! Macbeth, Madam, Good day!

MACBETH & LADY MACBETH

Good day, sir!

(BANQUO exits.)

LADY MACBETH

Macbeth we have much to speak about.

MACBETH

Well what is it?

LADY MACBETH

King Duncan wants to name his son, Malcolm, King!!!

MACBETH

NO!

LADY MACBETH

YES!

MACBETH

NO!

LADY MACBETH

YES!

MACBETH

Then we must—

LADY MACBETH

YES!

MACBETH

—the King—

LADY MACBETH

YES!

MACBETH

You know?

LADY MACBETH

I know!

MACBETH

Malcolm cannot be king!

LADY MACBETH

We must kill King Duncan and his son Malcolm!

MACBETH

We'll invite King Duncan and his sons over for dinner!

LADY MACBETH

And then they will be trapped!

JUDITH

So Macbeth and his wife invite King Duncan and his sons to dinner...

(KING DUNCAN and his sons, DONALBAIN & MALCOLM, enter.)

JUDITH

Meanwhile, Macbeth has Banquo killed.

(BANQUO enters, dies and exits while a small table and chairs are placed in the playing area. KING DUNCAN and his SONS sit at the table.)

MALCOLM

Good chicken.

DONALBAIN

Good cheese.

KING DUNCAN

Good wine.

HAMNET

After dinner, King Duncan and his sons went to bed.

(The KING and his SONS cross to one corner of the playing area and lie down and sleep.)

JUDITH

But Macbeth and Lady Macbeth stayed awake to carry out their plans.

(MACBETH sneaks up on the sleeping King.)

MACBETH

I don't know if I can do this!!

LADY MACBETH

Yes you can! Yes you can! Do it!

(LADY MACBETH exits.)

MACBETH

(Holding up a plastic dagger) Is this a dagger which I see before me?

JUDITH

In the middle of the night, King Duncan was killed by Macbeth!

(MACBETH attacks DUNCAN and then exits off.)

JUDITH

But Duncan's sons escape.

MALCOLM

Let's split up so they won't find us!

DONALBAIN

Deal!

(As MALCOLM and DONALBAIN exit, MACDUFF enters opposite.)

HAMNET

Macduff, a friend of KING DUNCAN arrives and he discovers King Duncan, slain.

MACDUFF

Oh no, someone has killed the King!

(MACBETH and LADY MACBETH rush in.)

MACBETH

Terrible!!

LADY MACBETH

Horrible!!

MACBETH

We must mourn...

LADY MACBETH

We must move on...don't worry, Macbeth will take over the Kingship.

(LADY MACBETH takes Duncan's crown and puts it on MACBETH ad DUNCAN rolls off and exits.)

MACDUFF

(Suspiciously) Okay...

HAMNET

So the next night, Macbeth had a party!

JUDITH

Everything was going great, until Banquo's Ghost showed up.

(BANQUO, as GHOST enters. MACBETH and LADY MACBETH sit at the table. BANQUO is only seen by MACBETH.)

BANQUO, As *GHOST*

BOOOOOAHHHHHHH!!! MACBETH!!!! MACBETH!!!!

MACBETH

Can you please pass the cheese?

BANQUO

BOOOOAHHHHHH!!! MACBETH!!! MACBETH!!!! BOOO!!!!

MACBETH

Stop!

BANQUO

BOOOO!!!!

MACBETH

Where's my cheese?!

LADY MACBETH

Macbeth please dear, just calm yourself and everything will be fine!!!

BANQUO

BOOOOOAHHHHH!!!

MACBETH

BE QUIET!!!!!!

LADY MACBETH

All right, I think we'll try this some other time, huh? Goodnight! At once goodnight!!

(ALL exit except MACBETH and LADY MACBETH.)

LADY MACBETH

Macbeth what was that? What's wrong with you?

MACBETH

Banquo was here! I saw Banquo!

LADY MACBETH

No, he's *disappeared*, remember?

MACBETH

But didn't I—

LADY MACBETH

No, you're wrong!

HAMNET

Meanwhile, Malcolm, one of the King's sons who escaped, meets with Macduff.

JUDITH

Macduff and Malcolm agree that Macbeth is the one who destroyed the King.

MACDUFF

(Entering with MALCOLM) We must kill Macbeth; he cannot be King!

MALCOLM

Come, go we to the king; our power is ready.

HAMNET

But before they got there, Lady Macbeth felt so badly about what she and Macbeth had done, she took her life into her own hands.

(LADY MACBETH falls.)

MACBETH

No!

(MALCOLM and MACDUFF charge.)

MACDUFF

(With sword in hand) My voice is in my sword!

(MACDUFF defeats MACBETH and he is killed.)

JUDITH

Now, Malcolm becomes King and all is well in the kingdom.

MACDUFF, MALCOLM, JUDITH, LADY MACBETH & MACBETH
(ALL rising and stepping forward) Yea!

JUDITH

Thus we conclude—

HAMNET
OH NO! Ahhhh!

JUDITH
What? What? What's Wrong?

HAMNET
We've put a curse on the Theatre!

JUDITH
What? What? How?

HAMNET
Well, legend has it that any time the word Macbeth is spoken in a theatre, there is a curse put on the theatre and everyone in it. It is called the Scottish curse!

(CAST gasps back stage/random people stick heads out and gasp.)

JUDITH
We're doomed!

(Pandemonium – ALL CAST run in and out in a panic.)

HAMNET
Wait!?!?!?!?!?

(ALL freeze in mid run.)

HAMNET
There are two ways to cure the curse. ONE, by running around in a circle three times, spitting and yelling, OR TWO, doing Shakespeare's play *Hamlet* right after doing *Macbeth*.

JUDITH
Let's do both just to make sure.

HAMNET
Right.

(The CAST spins, "spits" and yelps as the table and chairs are struck. ALL except HAMNET and JUDITH exit.)

SCENE FOUR

HAMNET

Hamlet.

JUDITH

By William Shakespeare.

HAMNET

And now ladies and gentleman we give you our main brooding and pondering character...

JUDITH

...the most intricate Shakespearean character of all....

HAMNET & JUDITH

Hamlet!

(The audience erupts in applause led by HAMNET, JUDITH and the CAST backstage. JUDITH places a stool center as HAMLET enters and sits in a SPOTLIGHT, possibly before a mic/mic stand.)

HAMLET

Hello everyone. This is my story. I was the Prince of Denmark. Now, one would think that I would have lived a carefree life being a prince. But no, my life was full of tragedy. You see...my father was King. But his brother Claudius overtook his throne by killing him and then marrying my mother Gertrude. Let's take a look.

(GERTRUDE and CLAUDIUS enter in the background.)

CLAUDIUS

I have killed my brother and now I will be King.

GERTRUDE

No!

CLAUDIUS

Will you marry me?

GERTRUDE

Okay. Sure. Why not?

(GERTRUDE and CLAUDIUS exit. SPOTLIGHT once again on HAMLET.)

HAMLET

You see? What was I to do? My mother had betrayed me and my father. Then one day, I saw the Ghost of my father.

(GHOST enters.)

GHOST

Hamleettt...Haaaaaamlet. I am your father's spirit. Listen to me. Get revenge on my brother Claudius 'cause he killed me! Go now, my son and make things right. Hamleett.

HAMLET

I have sworn it.

(The GHOST exits. SPOTLIGHT OUT; LIGHTS RESTORED.)

HAMLET

Now to my word, I decided to go after Claudius. Boy, was I about to get myself in a lot of trouble.

(OPHELIA enters holding flowers – she is always holding flowers.)

HAMLET

But for a while I was distracted by the most beautiful dame I'd ever seen. Her name was Ophelia.

(HAMLET crosses to OPHELIA.)

OPHELIA

Hello, Hamlet.

HAMLET

Hello, Ophelia.

(Awkward pause)

HAMLET

I love you, okay I have to go...bye!

(HAMLET turns away.)

HAMLET

I could have talked to Ophelia longer, but I had my father's instructions to follow.

(POLONIUS enters and starts talking to OPHELIA.)

HAMLET

Little did I know that soon, I would accidentally kill Ophelia's father, thinking he was Claudius. Ophelia went crazy because of it.

(POLONIUS falls.)

OPHELIA

O woe is me, to have seen what I have seen, see what I see.

(OPHELIA runs off.)

HAMLET

This angered King Claudius and he sent me off to battle in hopes that I would never return to Denmark. But instead I was captured by pirates.

(PIRATES enter singing and pick up HAMLET. THEY drop HAMLET in the middle of stage and place a sign next to him that states, "Welcome to Denmark". The PIRATES exit.)

HAMLET

When I got back to Denmark, I learned Ophelia had run off.

(OPHELIA runs in crazily.)

OPHELIA

Goodbye Hamlet. I will surely never see you again. Oh, by the way, my brother Laertes is very angry at you for killing our father, so he is coming to Denmark to challenge you to a fight. Tough luck.

(OPHELIA exits.)

HAMLET

Ophelia was never to be seen again. I was very nervous about what she had said. Soon my mother Gertrude, and the false King Claudius would watch as I fought Laertes, Ophelia's very angry brother.

(GERTRUDE, CLAUDIUS and LAERTES enter.)

LAERTES

On guard.

HAMLET

On guard.

(HAMLET and LAERTES fight as GERTRUDE and CLAUDIUS are sipping wine...ALL freeze.)

HAMNET

Well, as we know all tragedies end up bad, you can guess what happened.

JUDITH

All were killed that day. Hamlet and his mother were poisoned and Claudius and Laertes were taken by weapons.

(HAMLET, GERTRUDE, CLAUDIUS & LAERTES groan and fall.)

HAMLET

The rest is silence. . .

(HAMLET dies as well.)

HAMNET

And so, we conclude the story of *Hamlet*.

JUDITH

A tragedy of the saddest sort.

(The HAMLET CAST exits.)

SCENE FIVE

JUDITH

Wow, I think we're in the mood for something a little less tragic- Don't you think?

HAMNET

Yeah, I think I'm ready for – A LAUGH!

(CAST enters in hysterical laughter)

HAMNET

I love laughing...

JUDITH

You know who else loved laughing? William Shakespeare!

(More laughter)

HAMNET

Oh. Ok, ok, I got one. Knock, Knock.

JUDITH

Who's there?

HAMNET

William Shakespeare!

(Over top of the laughter.)

JUDITH

Laughing is what Shakespeare wanted his audiences to do when he wrote his comedies!

HAMNET

He wanted to take his audiences out of the troubles of the real world and into a world full of imagination.

JUDITH

So prepare yourself for...

HAMNET

A Midsummer Night's Dream.

JUDITH

By William Shakespeare.

HAMNET

Once upon a time there was an old man named Egeus.

JUDITH

Egeus had a beautiful daughter named Hermia.

HAMNET

Egeus wanted Hermia to marry a handsome young man named Demetrius. After all, Demetrius did love Hermia.

JUDITH

But Hermia did not love Demetrius. Hermia loved another man named Lysander.

(EGEUS, HERMIA, DEMETRIUS and LYSANDER enter.)

HERMIA

O cross! Father, I won't marry Demetrius. I don't love him and I wish to marry Lysander!

EGEUS

I don't care who you want to be with. I am your father and you will marry the man I want you to marry. And that is Demetrius.

DEMETRIUS

Thank you, sir. You see Hermia, I really do love you—

LYSANDER

She doesn't care if you love her because she loves me.

DEMETRIUS

Well we'll see about that.

LYSANDER

The course of true love never did run smooth.

(THESEUS enters.)

HAMNET

Egeus is so angry at his daughter's disobedience that he takes the matter to the King.

EGEUS

Make my daughter marry Demetrius, your honor.

THESEUS

Hermia, you have three choices. One: you may do as your father wishes: marry Demetrius and be happy. Two: you may go off to be a nun for the rest of your life. Or three: be killed. Choose Wisely. You have twenty four hours.

(ALL exit except HERMIA and LYSANDER.)

JUDITH

Later, in private, Hermia meets with Lysander.

HERMIA

Oh Lysander, I couldn't imagine my life without you. Let's run away together so we don't have to worry about my father or anyone else.

LYSANDER

Okay. In one hour we will meet and run away my love.

HERMIA

First I must tell my best friend Helena of our plan, so she doesn't worry.

LYSANDER

Good idea!

(HELENA enters.)

HERMIA

Oh Helena, I will not marry Demetrius. Instead I am going to run off into the forest and marry Lysander in secret. Do not tell anyone, do you promise?

HELENA

Yes, of course.

(HERMIA and LYSANDER exit.)

HELENA

Poor Demetrius! Hermia is not going to marry him. But that is better for me, because I love Demetrius. Maybe if I tell Demetrius that Hermia is to run away with Lysander, he will love me instead of her!

ALL CAST

OooOOooOoooooo *(like she is in trouble)*

(DEMETRIUS enters, doesn't even look at HELENA.)

HELENA

Hello Demetrius.

DEMETRIUS

Oh hello. Have you seen Hermia?

HELENA

Why, yes. I have. She has run away with Lysander and plans to marry him.

DEMETRIUS

Did you just say she is running away with Lysander and plans to marry him? Oh, the pain!! The agony!!!

HELENA

Now *we* can be together! You love me, right?

DEMETRIUS

No! Oh, the pain!!! The agony!!!

HELENA

What?

DEMETRIUS

I am going to run after them to stop them from marrying.

HELENA

I will come with you!

DEMETRIUS

NO. I must do this alone. *(Starts to exit then turns back to HELENA.)* Go away.

(DEMETRIUS exits.)

HELENA

O, I am out of breath in this fond chase!

(HELENA exits after Demetrius.)

HAMNET

Meanwhile, in the magical forest near where our story takes place—

(OBERON and TITANIA enter.)

JUDITH

—The King of Fairies, Oberon, and the Queen of Fairies, Titania, were bored and fighting.

TITANIA

I shall chide downright if I longer stay!

OBERON

Well, go thy way!

(TITANIA sticks out her tongue and crosses upstage in a huff. SHE lies down and falls asleep.)

OBERON, *Continues*

My gentle Puck, come hither!

(PUCK enters.)

JUDITH

Now Puck was the most troublesome fairy of all. He was smart and sneaky and quite the jokester.

PUCK

Hello, Oberon!

OBERON

I have a job for you, boy. Go fetch the special flower that when placed on eyelids makes the person lovesick for the first one they see. I want to use it on Titania!

PUCK

Yes, master! Off I go!

(PUCK exits as DEMETRIUS enters, pursued by HELENA. OBERON hides.)

DEMETRIUS

Stop following me! I do not, nor I cannot love you!

HELENA

And even for that do I love you more!

DEMETRIUS

I will not wait here any longer to hear you talk. Do not follow me any longer!

(DEMETRIUS exits.)

HELENA

I'll follow thee, and make a heaven of hell, to die upon the hand I love so well!

(HELENA exits in pursuit of DEMETRIUS as PUCK enters.)

JUDITH

Oberon is so moved by Helena, he decides to help her.

PUCK

I have the potion! Ay, there it is.

OBERON

I have something I want you to do. There is a human girl named Helena. And she loves a human boy named Demetrius. But Demetrius does not love Helena...he loves Hermia... I want you to take this special flower and rub some of its love potion on Demetrius' eyes so he will fall in love with Helena. *(OBERON spies the sleeping TITANIA.)* First I'll put some of the potion on Titania's eyes so she will fall in love with the first person she sees, too. It will be a good trick. *(OBERON rubs some of the potion on Titania's eyes then addresses PUCK.)* Now, find Demetrius and put the potion on his eyes. And don't mess up.

PUCK

Consider it done. *(OBERON exits.)* Now to find Demetrius and put the potion in his eyes so he will fall in love with Helena. *(LYSANDER and HERMIA enter.)* But look! There they are now.

HERMIA

I'm so tired. I need rest! I think I'll sleep right...here.

LYSANDER

And I here.

(LYSANDER lies too closer to HERMIA.)

HERMIA

(Sweetly) Further off, please.

(LYSANDER, disgruntled, rolls away from her and THEY both fall asleep. PUCK points to LYSANDER)

PUCK

This must be the man Oberon told me about, right? *(HAMNET and JUDITH help the audience say, "NO!")* What's that?... Yes, you say?... Oh, okay. *(PUCK puts the potion on LYSANDER's eyes.)* I hope I didn't make a mistake.

(BOTTOM enters.)

BOTTOM

I am an actor. I have gotten lost in the woods.

PUCK

I can't resist... What should I do? I've got it. I will turn him into a donkey.

(BOTTOM exits offstage with PUCK following. BOTTOM returns wearing huge donkey ears. TITANIA awakes.)

TITANIA

(To BOTTOM) I love you!

BOTTOM

(To TITANIA) Hee Haw! Okay! Hee Haw! Hee Haw!

(TITANIA leads BOTTOM off just as DEMETRIUS enters.)

DEMETRIUS

I have to rest so I can go on looking for Hermia and that scoundrel Lysander. I shall hide me under this bush so that ugly Helena doesn't find me.

(DEMETRIUS goes to sleep underneath a bush as HELENA enters.)

HELENA

Demetrius! Where are you? Who is this? Lysander on the ground! Did Demetrius kill him? *(She crosses to him, shaking him awake. PUCK enters.)* Lysander, are you alright?

LYSANDER

(Awakening and seeing HELENA) I love you!

HELENA

What?

PUCK

Uh, oh.

(PUCK runs over to DEMETRIUS while he is sleeping and puts the potion on his eyes.)

HELENA

I love Demetrius!

(DEMETRIUS and HERMIA awake.)

DEMETRIUS

(Seeing HELENA) I love you!

HERMIA

(To LYSANDER) Lysander! I love you!

(HERMIA, HELENA, LYSANDER and DEMETRIUS all argue about who love who as OBERON enters.)

OBERON

Puck... who did you give the potion to?

(PUCK points to LYSANDER and DEMETRIUS.)

OBERON

Was that the right person?

(PUCK shakes his head)

OBERON

Yeah. So. What can we do to fix this?

DEMETRIUS & LYSANDER

(To HELENA) I love you!

(THEY look at one another then speak again at the same time, this time to one another.)

DEMETIRUS & LYSANDER, *Continue*

Hey! Stop saying the same thing I am! Stop it! *(Once again to HELENA)* I love you!
(To one another) Stop!

HERMIA

What? Do you not jest?

HELENA

Yes!

(LYSANDER chases DEMESTRIUS off. HELENA runs opposite chased by HERMIA.)

OBERON

Stop this madness!

PUCK

Hey! It was just getting interesting!

OBERON

Puck, this needs to be fixed, now or else—

(TITANIA enters feeding BOTTOM sweet treats.)

TITANIA

(To BOTTOM) I love you!

BOTTOM

(To TITANIA) I love you!

TITANIA

Rest, my darling.

(TITANIA and BOTTOM fall asleep.)

OBERON

Okay. I see now. I understand what is going on.

PUCK

Good. Cause I don't.

OBERON

You will take the love spell off of Lysander and then he will love Hermia again. Then leave the love potion on Demetrius so he will continue loving Helena. Then take the love potion off of Titania and... Where did this donkey come from?

PUCK

He was an actor.

(The HUMANS enter one at a time, so tired from their chase that THEY fall to the ground and sleep. OBERON hands the potion to PUCK.)

OBERON

Go on.

PUCK

(PUCK makes a motion and sound that removed the love potion from LYSANDER.) Love potion off from Lysander. Check. *(PUCK crosses to DEMETRIUS but does not remove the love potion from him.)* Leave love potion on Demetrius. Check. *(PUCK takes the love potion off from Titania.)* Take love potion off from Titania. Check.

OBERON

Now I will wake them and all will be well.

(There is the SOUND OF A HORN off. ALL awake except BOTTOM. TITANIA looks at BOTTOM horrified, and runs to OBERON. THEY exit off followed by PUCK.)

DEMETRIUS & HELENA

I love you!

LYSANDER & HERMIA

I love you!

OBERON & TITANIA

I love you!

(The COUPLES exit as BOTTOM awakes. Seeing he is alone, HE exits.)

(THESEUS enters followed by the COUPLES holding hands.)

THESEUS

Joy, gentle friends! Joy and fresh days of love accompany your hearts!

HAMNET

And they all lived happily ever after!

(THE MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM CAST exits.)

SCENE SIX

JUDITH

I love happy endings! It's just crazy sometimes how they get there!

HAMNET

You're right, Judith.

JUDITH

Let's do another one!

HAMNET

Alright! I'm going to need two volunteers please! *(Points out a boy and a girl in the audience who happen to be the Actors for VIOLA and SEBASTIAN.)* Are you two twins?

(The ACTORS protest.)

JUDITH

Oh, okay. I guess they're not.

HAMNET

How many of you out there have a twin?

(Children in audience may raise a hand. If so, THEY will be recognized. If not, JUDITH continues.)

JUDITH

Anyone? *(Or "Anyone else?")* Wow I guess it is pretty rare.

HAMNET

Shakespeare wrote about twins in his play *Twelfth Night!*

JUDITH

Their names were Viola *(Gestures to VIOLA)* and Sebastian *(Gestures to SEBASTIAN)*.

HAMNET

One day they were sailing and their ship sank in a storm.

JUDITH

The Captain of the ship and Viola make it to land.

(SEBASTIAN exits off.)

HAMNET

But Viola couldn't find Sebastian anywhere and thought he had drowned!

(The CAPTAIN enters.)

VIOLA

Captain, where can I go now? I don't have a brother or a family!

CAPTAIN

You sound like a woman in town. Her name is Olivia and she also lost her brother.

VIOLA

I must go and live with her. We can grieve over the loss of our brothers together! Thank you!

CAPTAIN

Wait Viola! Olivia won't let anyone into her house!

VIOLA

Anyone?

CAPTAIN

Not even the Duke Orsino, who has wanted to marry Olivia for...well...forever.

VIOLA

I see...

(CAPTAIN exits.)

VIOLA

I have an idea! I will dress up like a boy! *(SHE stuffs her hair into a hat.)*

JUDITH

And?

VIOLA

And I will work for Duke Orsino!

HAMNET

And?

VIOLA

And maybe I can get to Lady Olivia through him.

JUDITH

It was a perfect plan. So Viola changed her name to—

(ORSINO enters. VIOLA jumps into a new sequence as CESARIO.)

VIOLA

—*Cesario*, sir, nice to meet you.

ORSINO

Welcome, young man. Cesario, I love Olivia more than the very nose on my face. I love her more than the stench from my feet. I cannot tell you how much I love her because I cannot put it into words.

VIOLA

(To audience) He's WONDERFUL. I think I'm in love.

ORSINO

I tell Olivia how much I love her and yet she still refuses to see me. I'm so sad. Only music makes me feel better. If music be the food of life, play on! Maybe you could talk to her for me?

VIOLA

Okay, sir.

ORSINO

Go; tell her how much I love her.

VIOLA

I will!

ORSINO

Good luck Cesario!

(ORSINO exits.)

VIOLA

(Removes hat.) I am in love with Duke Orsino! And now I have to tell Olivia that he loves her! I wish I didn't have to do this!

(OLIVIA enters. VIOLA quickly places her hat back on her head.)

VIOLA

Miss, excuse me!

OLIVIA

Go away.

VIOLA

Wait!

OLIVIA

What do you want?

VIOLA

Lady Olivia, I am Duke Orsino's messenger, Cesario.

OLIVIA

Oh no, not again. Tell him to stop bothering me!

VIOLA

No wait! Duke Orsino loves you more than his own heart in his chest. He loves you, Lady Olivia, more than the breath in his lungs. You see my master cannot put his love into words because it is so strong. He had to send me to tell you because if he were to try to speak he would explode with the overwhelming feeling of the purest true love.

OLIVIA

That was very beautiful. *(To audience)* I am in love with this boy! *(To VIOLA)* Cesario, you may come visit me more often.

VIOLA

Thank you Lady Olivia!

(VIOLA and OLIVIA freeze.)

HAMNET

Uh oh! Too many people are in love!

VIOLA

(Breaking freeze; removing her hat) I'm in love with Duke Orsino! *(VIOLA runs off.)*

OLIVIA

(Breaking her freeze.) I'm in love with Cesario! *(OLIVIA runs off.)*

ORSINO

(ORSINO enters.) I'm in love with Lady Olivia! *(ORSINO freezes.)*

JUDITH

Just wait, it gets worse!

(SEBASTIAN enters with ANTONIO.)

HAMNET

Whoa! *(Pointing at SEBASTIAN)* That guy looks just like Cesario!

JUDITH

It's Viola's twin, Sebastian!

SEBASTIAN

Antonio, my good friend, do you know who I miss?

ANTONIO

Gee, let me guess...your twin Viola?

SEBASTIAN

How did you know?

ANTONIO

You speak of her every day. I wish we could find her, for your sake.

ORSINO

(Breaking his freeze and crossing to SEBASTIAN) Cesario! There you are! Go to Lady Olivia's again and bring her this ring!

SEBASTIAN

My name is not Cesario.

ORSINO

Don't play games with me Cesario; take Lady Olivia this ring. *(Gives him the ring and exits.)*

SEBASTIAN

That was weird. What should I do?

ANTONIO

Take Lady Olivia the ring?

SEBASTIAN

Okay, I will. See you later!

(ANTONIO exits; SEBASTIAN runs around asking the children in the audience if they know the whereabouts of Lady OLIVIA. OLIVIA enters and the children direct SEBASTIAN to her.)

SEBASTIAN

Lady Olivia?

OLIVIA

Cesario!

SEBASTIAN

(To audience) Why does everyone keep calling me Cesario? *(To Lady OLIVIA)* Here is a ring.

OLIVIA

I'm in love with you.

SEBASTIAN

What?

(SEBASTIAN runs away in confusion as VIOLA enters.)

HAMNET

Look! It's Viola!! The real Cesario!

OLIVIA

Cesario, you're back! Thank you for the ring again!

(OLIVIA exits.)

VIOLA

I left no ring with her. What means this lady?

(ANTONIO enters.)

ANTONIO

Sebastian! There you are!

VIOLA

Did you just call me Sebastian?

ANTONIO

Yes.

VIOLA

That is not my name. That is the name of my long lost twin brother!

ANTONIO

Stop playing games Sebastian, let's go.

(ANTONIO exits.)

VIOLA

Wait!!

(VIOLA exits running after him as SEBASTIAN runs on opposite with Lady OLIVIA and Duke ORSINO following.)

OLIVIA

Cesario I love you!

ORSINO

You love Cesario? Cesario, you are fired!

SEBASTIAN

Who is Cesario?

(ANTONIO and VIOLA enter.)

VIOLA

Sebastian?

(VIOLA removes her hat.)

SEBASTIAN

Viola! At last!

(VIOLA and SEBASTIAN hug.)

OLIVIA

I'm going to marry Sebastian because he is so much like Cesario. I love him!

SEBASTIAN

Yes!

ORSINO

I'm going to marry Viola. I love her!

VIOLA

Yes!

HAMLET

The twins were reunited.

JUDITH

And happiness was there to stay!

SCENE SEVEN

HAMNET

That got a little crazy!

JUDITH

You thought that was crazy? Try this on for size!

JUDITH

The Taming of the Shrew.

HAMNET

By William Shakespeare!

JUDITH

There once was a man who lived in Padua.

HAMNET

Baptista Minola.

JUDITH

Who had two beautiful daughters.

HAMNET

Kate, the oldest, and Bianca the youngest.

JUDITH

Many men were in love with the youngest daughter Bianca.

(GREMIO, HORTENSIO and LUCENTIO enter and wave to the audience as each of their names is spoken.)

HAMNET

Like Gremio, Hortensio and Lucentio.

JUDITH

Right. But Bianca's father,

HAMNET

Baptista Minola,

JUDITH

Wouldn't let Bianca marry anyone until her sister Katherine—

HAMNET

Kate—

JUDITH

—until *Kate* was married.

(BAPTISTA MINOLA enters pursued by his daughter, BIANCA, pleading.)

BIANCA

No! Daddy please let me choose a suitor! Kate will never find anyone to love her!

BAPTISTA MINOLA

(Stopping) Your sister must marry first— it is only proper!

KATE

(Entering) That's too bad for you, because I'll never marry!

BIANCA

Kate... you're such a shrew!

KATE

Oh, tame me!

BAPTISTA MINOLA

Don't you girls have some studying to do? I'll have to find you a tutor!

(BAPTISTA MINOLA, KATE, & BIANCA exit.)

GREMIO, HORTENSIO & LUCENTIO

It's time to tame the Shrew!!

JUDITH

All of Biancas' Suitors—

HAMNET

Gremio, Hortensio and Lucentio—

JUDITH

Needed to find a way to marry off Kate so they could have a chance of marrying Bianca.

LUCENTIO

(Aside) I have a plan! I will dress up as a tutor so I can get close to Bianca. Then she will fall in love with me and I will marry her! *(HE gestures to GREMIO and THEY exit.)*

HAMNET

Meanwhile, a new man comes to Padua to find a woman to marry.

JUDITH

His name is Petruchio. He is an old friend of Hortensio.

(PETRUCHIO enters.)

HAMNET

Petruchio goes to Hortensio's.

PETRUCHIO

Knock I say!

HORTENSIO

Welcome!! How do you do, Petruchio?

PETRUCHIO

Well! Padua is a beautiful place to call your home.

HORTENSIO

Speaking of Padua— what brings you here old friend?

PETRUCHIO

Such wind as scatters young men through the world. I am searching for a woman to marry!

HORTENSIO

Any woman?

PETRUCHIO

Any woman with a lot of money!

HORTENSIO

(Aside) That's perfect! *(To PETRUCHIO)* I have a girl that just might be the right fit for you. Would you like to meet her?

PETRUCHIO

By all means. What are we waiting for?

JUDITH

Hortensio and Petruchio travel to Baptista Minola's house and on the way run into Lucentio and Gremio.

HORTENSIO

Are you on your way to Baptista Minola's?

LUCENTIO

Yes, why?

HORTENSIO

Because Petruchio is going to Baptista Minola's to woo Kate!

LUCENTIO

He's going to tame the Shrew?

HORTENSIO

He's going to tame the Shrew!

LUCENTIO

What are we standing around for?

(HORTENSIO, PETRUCHIO, LUCENTIO and GREMIO arrive at BAPTISTA MINOLA's. PETRUCHIO advances forward as the OTHERS watch.)

PETRUCHIO

Good day, sir!

BAPTISTA MINOLA

Petruchio?

PETRUCHIO

It is I! How did you know my name?

BAPTISTA MINOLA

I was a friend of your fathers!! Come in, come in! What brings you to Padua?

PETRUCHIO

I am here to woo and marry your daughter.

BAPTISTA MINOLA

Another one. Bianca!

PETRUCHIO

No sir– I am here to woo Kate.

BAPTISTA MINOLA

(Hysterical laughter) Excuse me. Kate!

BIANCA & KATE

Yes, father?

BAPTISTA MINOLA

Will you marry this man?

BIANCA

Ew. No.

BAPTISTA MINOLA

Not you Bianca. Kate, will you marry this man?

KATE

Yeah right– Sure.

PETRUCHIO

We shall be married then!

KATE

What? I was being sarcastic!

BAPTISTA MINOLA

You said yes, dear. Congratulations!

KATE

If I be waspish, best beware my sting.

PETRUCHIO

My remedy is then, to pluck it out.

(ALL exit except BIANCA, LUCENTIO and BAPTISTA MINOLA).

LUCENTIO

Sir– I came to tutor Bianca.

BAPTISTA MINOLA

Then get to work young man!

(BAPTISTA MINOLA exits.)

BIANCA

So you're my new tutor?

LUCENTIO

Yea....but...

BIANCA

What am I to learn today?

LUCENTIO

You're to learn that I love you and that I want to marry you. Be my wife Bianca!

BIANCA

Hmmmmmm.

KATE

(From off stage) Bianca!

BIANCA

We will talk of this later.

(LUCENTIO exits.)

KATE

Bianca! Today I am to be married and my fiancé is gone! Let's celebrate!

BIANCA

What? Where is he?

KATE

If I knew I wouldn't be excited now would I?

(PETRUCHIO enters dirty and smelly with tattered clothes.)

PETRUCHIO

I am here— Let's get on with the ceremony!

KATE

Where have you been? You look a mess! I don't want to marry you!

PETRUCHIO

Does it matter? Come here! *(Calling)* Priest!

KATE

We aren't getting married!

PETRUCHIO

Oh yes, we are!

(PRIEST and "THE TAMING OF THE SHREW" CAST enters.)

PRIEST

Do you take her?

PETRUCHIO

Yeah.

PRIEST

And do you take him?

KATE

How bout n—

PRIEST

You are now married!

PETRUCHIO

Let's go home.

KATE

What? No reception?

PETRUCHIO

Oh there is one but *we* won't be attending. *(To all)* Bye!

(KATE and PETRUCHIO exit. BAPTISTA MINOLA follows off, shaking his head.)

LUCENTIO

Bianca– Now is the time for us to be married!

(LUCENTIO and BIANCA exit, followed by the PRIEST.)

JUDITH

At their new home, Kate and Petruchio work out their differences.

HAMNET

They come back to Padua in love and as happy as ever.

JUDITH

As they arrive back to Baptista Minola's house, they see Bianca and her new husband approaching also.

(PETRUCHIO and KATE enter as LUCENTIO and BIANCA enter opposite. THEY greet one another, hugging and shaking hands in delight. BAPTISTA MINOLA enters.)

HAMNET

Baptista Minola comes to greet his two daughters expecting them to both be unhappy.

BIANCA

Father I have something to tell you. I am now a married woman!

KATE

And I am a happy woman.

BAPTISTA MINOLA

My daughters– Come to your father. *(THEY do.)* All I ever wanted was for you to be happy. Congratulations.

BIANCA & KATE

Thank you daddy!

BAPTISTA MINOLA

You're welcome. Now go thy ways; though has tamed a curst shrew.

(BAPTISTA MILOLA, BIANCA, KATE, PETRUCHIO and LUCENTIO exit.)

JUDITH

Such a sweet story don't you think?

HAMNET

Yeah it is. Well, that is the story of ..

JUDITH & HAMNET

The Taming of the Shrew!!

SCENE EIGHT

(Suddenly a SOUND CUE: FLIGHT OF THE BUMBLE BEE fills the air. “Members of the “HENRY V” CAST enter and rummage about the playing area as if THEY are looking for something. HENRY V is pushed onto the stage in a rolling chair.)

ALL CAST

Henry!

(The “HENRY V” CAST begins to prepare Henry for show. THEY apply makeup, dress him in a robe, etc. and present him to the audience. The MUSIC fades out.)

HENRY V

We have a very special treat for you today. The story of...me!

ALL CAST

In 60 seconds!

HENRY V

What?

JUDITH

Well Henry. Buddy ‘ole pal. We had to cut down your show. It was a bit too long.

HENRY V

Too long?

HAMNET

Yeah— Three hours is a little lengthy. We have to finish the show sometime.

HENRY V

Well, then. Fine. The story of me—

ALL CAST

—in 60 seconds!!

(THEY exit.)

HENRY V

When my father died he told me that I had to busy giddy minds with foreign quarrels to quiet the rebellion at home. Home is here— fair England. So I resolved by God’s help to bend France to my awe or break it all to pieces!

JUDITH

So you're going to make trouble somewhere else so the country will unite.

HENRY V

Yes! Shhhh. If I have 60 seconds there is no time for clarification!

HAMNET & JUDITH

Speed it up Henry!

HENRY V

So we went to war.

(The ENGLISH COURT enters left as the FRENCH COURT enters right. War ensues between the two groups.)

HENRY V

Now by my keen sense of betrayal I knew I was...well...betrayed.

(The action freezes.)

FIRST TRAITOR

I'm so sorry!

SECOND TRAITOR

I'm more sorry!

HENRY V

So am I. Goodbye.

(SEVERAL members of the ENGLISH court drag off the TRAITORS.)

HENRY V

To war!

(The warring resumes. THEY tire. Each side exits off as the FRENCH KING enters with PRINCE DAUPHIN.)

FRENCH KING

Prince Dauphin– Read the letter that was sent to us by King Henry.

DAUPHIN

It says the “crown and kingdom” should be resigned to the English Ruler.

HENRY V

That's me! *(The ENGLISH COURT, as Soliders, return.)* Let's go!

(The FRENCH COURT, as Soldiers, return and stand behind the FRENCH KING.)

HAMNET

But there are twice as many French soldiers as there are English.

JUDITH

The English soldiers turn to seek encouragement from their leader, Henry, but he is nowhere to be found.

This is Not the End of the Play
Ending Intentionally Omitted for Security Purposes