

student activity 1

Name _____ Date _____

Shakespearean Plays: Tragedy or Comedy

Read the synopsis of each Shakespearean play below. Then, circle whether the play is a tragedy or a comedy.

Tragedy: A dramatic play with tragic events that show the downfall of one or more main characters.

Comedy: A dramatic play with an amusing, light tone and a happy ending in which characters experience a change for the better.

Shakespearean Plays	T or C?
<p>Comedy of Errors focuses on twin brothers Antipholus of Syracuse and Antipholus of Ephesus. The play unfolds over a series of hilarious events involving wrongful accusations, seductions, beatings and even the arrest of Antipholus of Ephesus under the charge of infidelity, thievery and insanity. The play ends on a happy note with both twins united.</p>	<p>Tragedy</p> <p>Comedy</p>
<p>Twelfth Night is about two separated twins Viola and Sebastian. Viola disguises herself as a boy (Cesario) and is employed by the reigning duke Orsino. Orsino's love interest is the Lady Olivia who will not reciprocate the same as she is mourning the death of her father. Orsino sends Viola to woo Lady Olivia on his behalf but Olivia ends up falling for Viola, who she believes to be Cesario. Meanwhile, chance brings Sebastian to the court of Olivia, who makes him marry her mistaking him for Viola (aka Cesario). A healthy rigmarole ensues until the Duke finds new love with Viola.</p>	<p>Tragedy</p> <p>Comedy</p>
<p>Richard II is a historical play that depicts the common power struggle for the throne and Richard's attempts to establish his rule. While Richard is away fighting the Welsh, Bolingbroke lobbies for supporters among the noblemen and initiates a rebellion. Bolingbroke attempts to make peace with Richard by requesting back his lands and riches to which Richard agrees. In a turn of events Richard reluctantly hands over the throne to Bolingbroke who is crowned as King Henry IV. Richard is sent to the tower where he is soon killed by conspirators.</p>	<p>Tragedy</p> <p>Comedy</p>
<p>Based upon the quintessential and common theme of love, A Midsummer Night's Dream is set in an enchanted forest in a fictional land called Athens. It revolves around the tale of four lovers and an amateur troupe of actors whose lives are influenced by forest fairies led by their king Oberon and his estranged wife Queen Titania. Oberon influences Puck the mischievous sprite to cast a spell on Queen Titania making her fall in love with one of the actors. For good measure, Puck has replaced his head with that of a donkey's.</p>	<p>Tragedy</p> <p>Comedy</p>
<p>In As You Like It, a senior Duke has been banished to the Forest of Arden by his younger brother. However his daughter Rosalind is allowed to remain but subsequently flees to join her father. Rosalind falls in love with Orlando who also flees to Arden from his elder brother's dominance. During their exile in the forest, Rosalind is disguised as a man named Ganymede and befriends Orlando as a jest. Meanwhile, the younger evil duke, while marching with an army to the forest, repents his ways after a religious encounter with a holy man. He turns to religion and the senior Duke has his title and lands restored.</p>	<p>Tragedy</p> <p>Comedy</p>

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Shakespearean Plays continued	T or C?
<p>Much Ado About Nothing portrays a series of events surrounding two sets of lovers. Claudio, a young Count betrothed to marry his love Hero, suspects her of infidelity and insults her at the altar. In a scheme to have Claudio make amends, her father makes him believe that a grief stricken Hero has died. Meanwhile another romantic tryst takes place between the Count Benedick and Hero's cousin Beatrice. Although well matched, they repel each other's advances. Playing matchmaker, Hero's father brings the two together. A joint marriage is planned where Claudio is made to marry an incognito bride introduced as Beatrice's cousin. However, she turns out to be none other than his love, the Lady Hero.</p>	<p>Tragedy</p> <p>Comedy</p>
<p>Julius Caesar dramatizes the life of Julius Caesar who has just returned victorious from his campaign against Pompey. His growing popularity invites resentment from a group of tribunes led by Cassius. Cassius succeeds in recruiting Caesar's best friend Brutus in a plot to assassinate Caesar. Despite several warnings from his wife Calphurnia, Caesar goes to the capitol and is assassinated by the conspirators. Roman general Mark Anthony, also a friend of Caesar, swears revenge. Along with Octavius Caesar he meets Cassius's army in battle on the fields of Philippi. Caesar's ghost appears to Brutus the night before the battle. Mark Antony and Octavius are successful while Brutus and Cassius commit suicide.</p>	<p>Tragedy</p> <p>Comedy</p>
<p>In Hamlet, Prince Hamlet of Denmark is incited by ghostly apparitions of his father who wants revenge against his murderer, Hamlet's uncle Claudius. Claudius seizes both the thrones and marries Hamlet's mother Gertrude. The prince's initial plot to kill Claudius fails with him killing his sweetheart Ophelia's father instead. When the prince is sent to England by Claudius, he stumbles upon Ophelia's funeral instead of her father's. While Gertrude is killed by drinking poison meant for the prince, Claudius incites a duel between the prince and Laertes, Ophelia's brother. Both the men are fatally wounded, but Hamlet kills Claudius before succumbing to his injuries.</p>	<p>Tragedy</p> <p>Comedy</p>

Answer key:
 Comedy of Errors: Comedy, Twelfth Night: Comedy, Richard II: Tragedy, A Midsummer Night's Dream: Comedy, As You Like It: Comedy, Much Ado About Nothing: Comedy, Julius Caesar: Tragedy, Hamlet: Tragedy

student activity 2

Name _____ Date _____

My Prologue

Use the organizer below to structure your story and create your prologue. You can use an existing story from a movie, book, etc. as your inspiration or use your imagination and create an original story.

Plot Element	Story (Plot Points)	Prologue (2-3 lines per section)
Exposition		
Conflict		
Rising Action		
Climax		
Falling Action		
Resolution		