



The Ugly Shakespeare Resource Booklet

Hamlet and Othello



THE UGLY SHAKESPEARE RESOURCE BOOKLET

University of Waikato welcome

Hamlet Introduction

Hamlet: The End

Hamlet: Jokes 'R OK

Hamlet: Metaphors

Hamlet: Catharsis

Hamlet: Discussion Questions

Othello Introduction

Othello: Plot

Othello: Detail

Othello: Tone

Othello: Dying Well

Othello: Discussion Questions



Welcome

William Shakespeare surely had the most significant impact on the English language of any single person. And his legacy is still apparent in the arts and across many cultures.

For many students though, his name induces more eye-rolling than anything, and even adults can struggle to look past the complex language to the timeless themes, stories and humour he offers.

That's why the University of Waikato is pleased to be working in partnership with the Ugly Shakespeare Company to bring your school a taste of the Bard as he might have been had he been around today.

We also hope that this resource booklet will be useful in conjunction with this year's performances of Hamlet and Othello. It has been developed by one of our leading Shakespearian lecturers to help your students develop their understanding around Shakespeare and his works and to encourage their creative thinking.

Dan Zirker

Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

"We know what we are, but not what we may be" – Hamlet Act IV, Scene 5

Hamlet

Hamlet is aimed at the senior school, with more of a text-based focus. It still includes the fast-paced and irreverent style that the Ugly Shakespeare Club is famous for. Three energetic and frantic actors take the audience on a journey through this incredible tragedy.

Using techniques of various theatre styles, the characters transform on stage using simple wigs and costume variations. Writer/director Brad MacCormick spent three months in Italy studying commedia dell'arte and introduces many aspects of this age-old technique into the production.

The Ugly Shakespeare Hamlet is part of a tradition of versioning Shakespeare. Tom Stoppard wrote a 15 Minute Hamlet, with an encore, 2 Minute Hamlet. In the 1970s there was a Punk Hamlet, with swear words your parents would not want you hearing at school. The Ugly's script follows the story of the play, but changes the emphasis.



Othello

Othello is used as an introduction to Shakespeare for a younger audience (years 7-9) or can be used as a show for the whole school at once. Less text-based and more a guide to some of the devices and styles of Elizabethan theatre, Othello allows audiences to enjoy Shakespeare and live theatre on their own terms, in their own environment.

Set in the World Shakespeare Championships, two teams battle it out to be world champions – The Ugly Shakespeare Company vs the Evil Shakespeare Company. Special guest appearance by the Perfect Shakespeare Company.





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