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SCHOOL WORKSHOP PROPOSAL

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SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP

Barefoot Shakespeare Company is pleased to have developed an educational outreach program for elementary to eighth grade students. Our intention is to introduce students of all levels to the Bard for the first time or reinforce their relationship with the language of Shakespeare's plays and the depth of his characters.

This outline is a sample of the exercises offered by Barefoot Shakespeare Company. It can be modified to reflect the educational level of the attendees, the focus of the school, a specific play or lesson plan and any time requirements.

PURPOSE AND BENEFIT TO STUDENTS

Barefoot's school workshops introduce students to critical thinking and enhance language skills through the lens of Shakespeare. Workshops provide a rehearsal-like experience and prepare students for fast-paced critical reading and thinking situations.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE BREAKDOWN

Our workshops mimic the stages of a real rehearsal process: getting to know you, vocal warm-up, physical warm-up, text work, rehearsal and recall.

Getting to know you exercise – Approximately 10 minutes

When students need to be introduced to each other, presenters play a name game for several minutes. In pre-established groups where presenters are the only new element, name games are not necessary and this segment can be cut in favor of the later segments.

Vocal warm-up – Approximately 5 minutes

Vocal warm-ups help students explore range and vocal ladder, relieve throat and neck tension, and relax cheeks and mouths, preparing students' voices for the day.

Physical warm-up – Approximately 10 minutes

Physical warm-ups are designed to force groups to get moving, engage with one another, and loosen themselves up physically and mentally.

Text Work – approximately 30 – 60 minutes

Text work comprises the majority of the workshop and uses Socratic method and textual aids to engage students' critical thinking and language abilities. Presenters circulate among student groups to show how actors, directors, scholars and other professionals handle unfamiliar language.

Some examples of text-based exercises include:

Shakespearean Wit - 15 minutes

Fun and easy to grasp, Shakespearean Wit is a word game that accustoms students to Shakespearean language and linguistic patterns through an engaging exercise. Students pick words and phrases, one from each of three categories, and string them together in a Shakespearean-themed directive beginning with "Thou..." or "Thou art a..." (Ex. "Thou gleeking knotty-pated blind-worm!")

Presenters demonstrate the game, distribute Wit Kits and pair students. Shakespearean Wit is about give and take; students are encouraged to listen to each other before response. Some pairs will be asked to demonstrate for the whole group.

Presentation of a short scene - 15 minutes

Scenes vary based on the age of the audience and the focus of the class, as requested by the school. Presenters act out simple scenes with clear beginnings and endings. There is a short introduction prior to the scene and a recap after. Presenters facilitate discussion, if appropriate.

Analysis of Speeches - 30 minutes

Analysis will focus on one of Shakespeare's famous speeches, which students may have heard before. The monologue chosen will clearly pose a question, espouse an argument and provide an answer. Students are placed in smaller groups and presenters encourage and aid students in translating the text on their own through the use of direct questioning and textual aids. Time permitting, one or more of the students will be asked to read a portion of the text to either their small group, or the group at large.

Recall - 10 minutes

Presenters recap the workshop with students and encourage them to recall what they have learned during the seminar.

REQUIREMENTS

There must be enough room for students and presenters to move around freely and participate in physical exercises such as tossing a ball around a room and standing and moving about in a large circle.

Our workshops are ideal for groups of approximately 25 students. Groups of 40 or more will require an additional presenter at additional cost.

COSTS

We will work with you to provide an experience tailored to your budget and needs and will provide you with a customized workshop proposal upon request.

Please reach out to thebard@barefootshakespeare.org with your budget and goals and we will respond with a proposal to meet your needs.

Transportation (outside of New York City) and lodging (if required) are additional. If workshops are run for more than eight (8) consecutive hours, then the school must provide lunch or an additional meal stipend per presenter.

ABOUT BAREFOOT

Barefoot Shakespeare Company is dedicated to bringing Shakespeare's work to a wide, diverse audience. We approach these texts with energy, enthusiasm, and excitement. Striving to create work that is grounded, accessible and applicable, we seek to dissolve the divide between spectator and performer. We explore Shakespeare's canon through both full scale and shortened, "ready to go" productions.



We lead in-school workshops that focus on text analysis and a hands-on approach to understanding and enjoying Shakespeare's words.

Workshop presenter Joe Raik, along with Barefoot founding members and directors, Courtney Moors (left), Emily Gallagher (right), lead students in Speech Analysis.

For more information, or to plan a workshop, please contact us at thebard@barefootshakespeare.org.