

Shakespeare Unit PowerPoint

[Shakespeare Introduction \(Appendix A\)](#)

[The Beauty of Language \(Appendix C\)](#)

[Introduction to Tragedy \(Appendix E\)](#)

(Select link to jump ahead in document)

Shakespeare

An overview before we read

Timeline (Look, Don't Write)

- **1564**: Shakespeare is born in Stratford-upon-Avon.
- **1585-1592**: Shakespeare moves to London and begins his career as an actor and writer with a theatre troupe called the Lord Chamberlain's Men.
- **1599**: The Lord Chamberlain's Men build their theatre: the Globe.

The First Globe

The GLOBE PLAYHOUSE

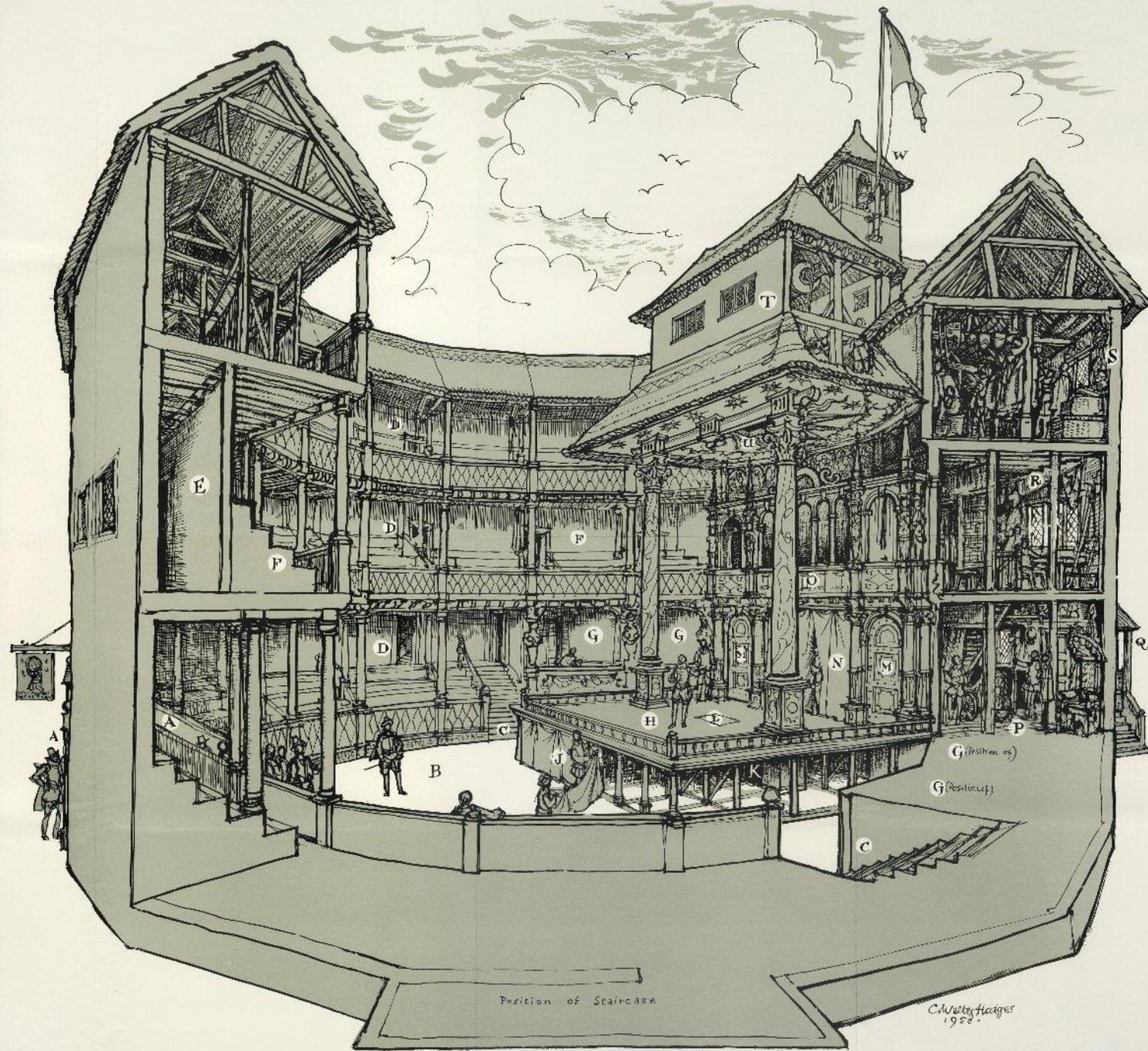
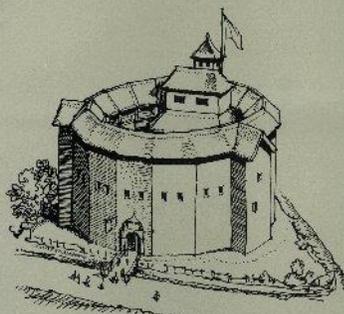
1599-1613

A Conjectural Reconstruction by
C. Walter Hodges



KEY

- AA Main entrance
- B The Yard, where the 'groundlings' stood (for one penny admission)
- CC Entrances to lower gallery (on payment of another penny)
- D Entrances to staircase and upper galleries
- F Corridor serving the different sections of the middle gallery
- F Middle gallery. (The 'Two-penny Rooms')
- G 'Gentlemen's Rooms' or 'Lord's Rooms'
- H The stage
- J The hangings being put up round the stage. (s.d. In some theatres this was located in)
- K The 'Hell' under the stage
- L The stage trap, leading down to the Hell
- MM Stage doors, leading into the tiring-house
- N Curtained 'place' behind the stage, sometimes opened for special scenes
- O Gallery above the stage, used as required sometimes by musicians, sometimes by spectators, and often as part of the play (e.g. *Romeo and Juliet*)
- P Backstage area (the tiring-house)
- Q Tiring-house door
- R Dressing room
- S Windows and storage
- T The hut housing the machine for lowering cutaneous gods, etc., to the stage
- U The 'Heaven'
- W Hoisting the playhouse flag



Position of Staircase

C. Walter Hodges
1980

https://unterricht.en.zum.de/wiki/Shakespeare/The_Globe_Theatre

Timeline (Look, Don't Write)

- **1603:** Queen Elizabeth dies and is succeeded by James I, who gives his patronage to Shakespeare's troupe, which is renamed the King's Men.
- **1609:** The King's Men start giving winter performances in the new Blackfriars indoor theater: one of the first theaters to use artificial lighting.

Blackfriars Indoor Theater

<https://www.steelstavern.com/blog/2015/10/blackfriars-playhouse-shakespeares-home-staunton-va>



Timeline (Look, Don't Write)

- 1613: The Globe burns down.
- 1614: The Globe is rebuilt.
- 1616: Shakespeare dies.
- 1623: Actors from the King's Men publish the First Folio: a collection of Shakespeare's plays.

Timeline (Look, Don't Write)

- 1644: The Globe is demolished.
- 1997: Shakespeare's Globe is reconstructed.
- 2014: The Blackfriars Theater is reconstructed as the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, next to the new Globe.

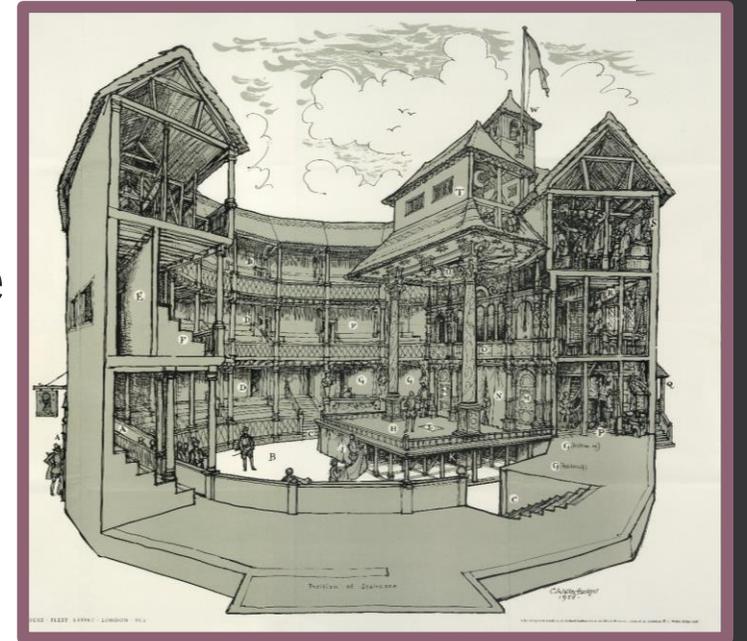
Sam Wanamaker Playhouse

<https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/interior-of-sam-wanamaker-playhouse>



So why is this important?

- Notice the staging:
 - Audience is right next to the stage
 - No “fourth wall”
 - Scene changes are difficult
- Characters
 - Costumes are elaborate and expensive (instead of staging equipment)
 - All actors are male (even female characters!)



No 4th Wall?

- The characters may interact with the audience
- *Dramatic Irony*: the audience/reader knows something that the characters do not know

Performance during Shakespeare's Time

- <https://youtu.be/95ec5xtt6Hs>

“But Ms. Griffin, I hate Shakespeare!”

No, you don't.

1. You hate the way you were taught Shakespeare in the past.
 - We'll learn it differently this time.
2. You didn't understand the language.
 - We'll learn how to read Shakespeare.
3. You want to fit in, and all the cool kids hate Shakespeare.
 - People who are excellent don't fit in, and we strive for excellence.
4. You haven't read *Hamlet* yet.
 - Guess what.

Some basic dramatic terms to know

- Soliloquy
 - speech that a character gives when *alone on stage*
- Monologue
 - long, uninterrupted speech that is spoken while *other characters are on stage*
- Dialogue
 - two or more characters engaged in a conversation with one another
- Aside
 - a character's dialogue is *spoken but not heard* by other characters on stage

Beauty of Language

“But soft! What light through yonder window breaks?

It is the east, and Juliet is the sun” (*Romeo and Juliet*, 2.2)

Mimesis (write this down!)

- Mimesis is *imitation*
- Mimetic prejudice: expectation that everything should be mimetic
- Some writing is more *mythic*; some writing is more *mimetic*
- Shakespeare often does not write mimetically because he plays with language.

Rhythm

- Much of Shakespeare's writing uses *iambic pentameter*
- Iambic pentameter
 - Uses *iams* as its primary foot
- Iambic pentameter
 - Has 5 feet

Foot (Feet) and Meter

- A *foot* is a group of 2-3 stressed and unstressed syllables
- *Meter*: the rhythm of poetry
- *Scansion*: process of finding the meter

Types of Feet (2 syllables)

- **Iam**
 - (◡ ') unstressed, stressed (heartbeat)
- **Trochee**
 - (' ◡) stressed, unstressed
- **Spondee**
 - (' ') stressed, stressed
- **Pyrric**
 - (◡ ◡) unstressed, unstressed

Types of Feet (3 syllables)

- **Anapest**

- (∪ ∪ ') unstressed, unstressed, stressed

- **Dactyl**

- (' ∪ ∪) stressed, unstressed, unstressed

Variations (write this down!)

- Free verse
 - Changing meter
- Blank verse
 - Unrhyming iambic pentameter
- Feminine ending
 - Extra unstressed syllable at the end of the line
- Heroic Couplet
 - Pair of rhyming lines in iambic pentameter
(*Hamlet* 1.5.188-9)

How to read poetry out loud

- Enjambment

- The sentence continues into the next line without pause

- End Stop

- The sentence ends at the end of the line

- Caesura

- A pause midway through the line

Fancy Language

- **Riddle**: indirection in language
 - *Why?*
- **Pun**: play on words, usually for humorous effect
- **Motif**: a repeated idea or image throughout the work that contributes to the development of the theme

Why is this important?

- Language is one of the things that makes a work excellent
- Challenges us to think
- Author's purpose can be revealed in *how* s/he writes, not just *what* s/he writes

Tragedy

What makes tragedy so pleasurable to read?

What is a Tragedy?

What is a tragedy?

- A story centered around an action that depicts a downfall for a noble hero/heroine
- What are some examples of tragedies?

Tragic Hero

- Noble (either from virtue or birth or both)
- *Hamartia*
 - The hero's tragic flaw
 - Usually the same as (or related to) his/her noble trait
- “Free to fall but sufficient to have stood”

Tragedy vs. Cautionary Tale

Cautionary Tale

- Didactic
 - Teaches a lesson
- Sacrifices plot for the sake of the lesson

Tragedy

- Focuses on a *natural law*
 - Downfall could not be avoided
- Typically does not teach a lesson
- More artful than a didactic story

Natural Law?

- What is it about *the way that things are* that MOST contributes to the action of the plot?
 - The *natural law* contributes directly to WHY the hero's actions lead to the outcome
- **Natural Law**: an expression of the way things must be
- Example from Romeo and Juliet: Love is the only thing that can overcome hate, but hatred will cause love to suffer immensely.

Why is tragedy sad?

- We desire community; tragedy ends with the community falling apart
- The hero is *noble*, but not flawless
 - We can see ourselves in the character, so we want him/her to succeed
- Closer to our experience of real life (mimetic)
 - Plans don't work out perfectly
 - Bad things happen to good people
 - The hero suffers the consequences of his actions

Poetic Justice

- According to *poetic justice*, good characters are rewarded, and bad characters are punished
 - Everybody gets what they “deserve”
- Tragedy focuses *instead* on the *consequences of bad decisions*
 - So characters don’t always get what we think they deserve

Why do we like tragedy? (don't write)

- Aristotle: “catharsis of pity and fear”
- We get to face our fears vicariously through the tragic hero in a safe way...and then go back to real life