SNEAK PEEK
AT
SHAKESPEARE
FOR KIDS BOOKS

creatively edited by Brendan P. Kelso
Sneak Peek inside
Shakespeare for Kids
Books

And other classics for kids

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FOREWORD

This e-book is specifically designed to give you a sneak peek at all the Playing With Plays’ titles. What you will find is a short 1 to 3-page glimpse into each book.

Please note, when purchasing these books, each book contains:

• 3 plays – one for each group size: small, medium, and large. Each play is unique, so the cast is dependent upon the titles – for example, Julius Caesar for Kids can be done with as little as 5 kids whereas Midsummer needs a minimum of 9. A basic idea is below:
  o small – depending on the title, can be for anywhere from 5 – 10 actors
  o medium – 7 – 14 actors
  o large – 12-20+ actors
• Each play has ACTUAL text from the original play or novel. You can identify that by the underlined text you are reading (in the print books, it is highlighted gray). The purpose is to allow the kids to realize that they actually can understand Shakespeare, as well as to allow them to realize many of the phrases they hear today are from the Bard, himself: In my mind’s eye; to be or not to be; Et tu, Brute; Ides of March; etc.
• All books are in a play format, to make them easy to read, and most importantly easy to act out!
• All the books are melodramatic in nature, mainly to keep it light and fun. (Tragedies are even funnier than the comedies!) I’ve learned that kids LOVE to die on stage, kids HATE love scenes, and kids just want to have fun. (That’s why Hamlet’s my favorite, shhh, it’s a secret!)
• I’ve taught these plays dozens of times to hundreds of kids, I’m here to help you get your kids engaged! Contact me or search my blog posts to see lesson ideas, performance ideas, or just fun Shakespeare stuff. I’ve dialed the process into a quick and easy formula that makes it easy for anyone to teach these plays with little to no stress!
• Engaging kids with Shakespeare. To start off with, you can download the free Shakespeare Insult Generator here. This is a blast for kids and adults and is the easist way to engage kids with Shakespeare. With the Insult Generator in hand, you can also set your group up to do an Insult-a-thon! Simple, fun, and yes... engaging! A perennial favorite when I go visit schools!
Shakespeare's: Taming of the Shrew for Kids

3 Short Melodramatic Plays for 3 Group Sizes

creatively edited by Brendan P. Kelso and Khara C. Oliver
Sneak peek of
Shakespeare’s
Taming of the Shrew
for Kids

Designed for 8-19 actors

ACT 1 SCENE 1

(Enter LUCENTIO and TRANIO)

LUCENTIO: Well, Tranio, my trusty servant, here we are in Padua, Italy! I can’t wait to start studying and learn all about philosophy and virtue!

TRANIO: There is such a thing as too much studying, master Lucentio. We need to remember to have fun too! PARTY!

LUCENTIO: Hey look! Here come some of the locals!

(LUCENTIO and TRANIO move to side of stage; Enter BAPTISTA, KATHERINA, BIANCA, HORTENSIO and GREMIO)

BAPTISTA: Look guys, you know the rules: Bianca can’t marry anybody until her older sister, Katherina, is married. That’s the plan and I’m sticking to it! If either of you both love Katherina, then please, take her.

KATHERINA: (Sarcastically) Wow, thanks Dad.

HORTENSIO: I wouldn’t marry her if she were the last woman on earth.

KATHERINA: And I’d rather scratch your face off than marry you!

TRANIO: (Aside to LUCENTIO) That wench is stark mad!

BAPTISTA: Enough of this! Bianca, go inside.

BIANCA: Yes, dearest father. My books and instruments shall be my company. (She exits)

KATHERINA: (At BIANCA) Goody two-shoes.

BAPTISTA: Bianca is so talented in music, instruments, and poetry! I really need to hire some tutors for her. (KATHERINA rolls her eyes and sighs)

Good-day everyone! (BAPTISTA exits)

KATHERINA: (Very angry) AGHHHH!!!! I’m outta here

(Exits opposite direction from her father)

GREMIO: (Shudders) Ugh! How could anyone ever want to marry Katherina?!

HORTENSIO: I don’t know, but let’s find a husband for her.

GREMIO: A husband? A devil!

HORTENSIO: I say a husband.

GREMIO: I say a devil.

HORTENSIO: Alright, alright! There’s got to be a guy out there crazy enough to marry her.

GREMIO: Let’s get to it!
(Exit GREMIO and HORTENSIO)

**LUCENTIO**: Oh, Tranio! Sweet Bianca, has stolen my heart! I burn, I pine, I perish! Oh, how I love her!

**TRANIO**: Whoa, Master! You’re getting a little over dramatic, there, Lucentio.

**LUCENTIO**: Sorry. But my heart is seriously on fire! How am I going to make her fall in love with me if she’s not allowed to date anybody? Hmmm...

**TRANIO**: What if you pretended to be a tutor and went to teach her?

**LUCENTIO**: YOU ARE BRILLIANT, TRANIO! And because we’re new here and no one knows what we look like yet, YOU will pretend to be ME at all the local parties. Quick, let’s change clothes.

**TRANIO**: Here? Now?

**LUCENTIO**: Yes, Here and now! You can’t stop this lovin’ feeling! *(Starts singing a love song)*

**TRANIO**: Please, no singing. I’ll do it. *(They exchange hats, socks or jackets)*

**LUCENTIO**: Perfect! Now while you’re pretending to be me, try and get Bianca to marry you. I’ve got a super confusing plan that I’ll tell you about later. Got it?

**TRANIO**: Huh? I am already confused. But, yeah, got it.

*(They exit)*

*Purchase Taming of the Shrew for Kids here*
Rudyard Kipling’s: Jungle Book for Kids

3 Short Melodramatic Plays for 3 Group Sizes

creatively edited by Brendan P. Kelso & Khara C. Barnhart
Sneak peek of
Rudyard Kipling’s
The Jungle Book
for Kids

Designed for 6-16 actors

PARENT WOLF: Oh hi, Bagheera. What’s happening in the life of a panther?
BAGHEERA: I wanted to warn you. Shere Khan’s in town again.
PARENT WOLF: The tiger? What’s he doing in this part of the jungle?
BAGHEERA: What tigers do. You know, hunt, eat, hunt again, eat… hunt….eat… (trailing off)
PARENT WOLF: (play-acting like a tiger) Oh look at me, I’m a mean ol’ tiger, roar!!! (there is a LOUD ROAR and GROWL from offstage, PARENT WOLF is a bit shocked)
PARENT WOLF: (to MOWGLI) Gaa gaa. Goo goo.
(SHERE KHAN enters. PARENT WOLF hides MOWGLI behind her back)
SHERE KHAN: A man’s cub went this way. Its parents have run off. Give it to me. I’ll uh…. take care of him…(as he rubs his belly) you can TOTALY trust me! (gives_the_audience_a_big_evil_smile)
PARENT WOLF: You are NOT the boss of us.
SHERE KHAN: Excuse me?! Do you know who I am? It is I, Shere Khan, who speaks! I’m kind of a big deal. And_scary! GRRRRR.
PARENT WOLF: The man’s cub is mine; he shall not be killed! So beat it; you don’t scare us.
SHERE KHAN: Fine. But I’ll get him some day, make no mistake!
Muahahahahahaha! ROAR! (SHERE KHAN exits)
PARENT WOLF: (to MOWGLI) Mowgli the Frog I will call thee. Lie still, little frog.
MOWGLI: (to PARENT WOLF) Frog?
PARENT WOLF: (to MOWGLI and audience) Yeah, I guess Rudyard Kipling liked frogs! But now we have to see what the wolf leader says.
(enter AKELA, BAGHEERA, and BALOO)
AKELA: Okay, wolves, let’s get this meeting started! Howl!
**WOLVES:** Howl!! *(all WOLVES howl)*

**PARENT WOLF:** Akela, our great leader, I’d like to present the newest member of our pack, Mowgli the Frog!

**AKELA:** Hmmm, Frog, huh? If you say so.

*(enter SHERE KHAN)*

**SHERE KHAN:** ROAR! The cub is mine! Give him to me!

**AKELA:** Who speaks for this cub?

**BALOO:** *(speaking in a big, deep bear voice!)* I, Baloo the Bear, I speak for the man’s cub. I myself will teach him the ways of the jungle.
SHAKESPEARE'S:

Julius Caesar

FOR KIDS

3 Short Melodramatic Plays for 3 Group Sizes

creatively edited by Brendan P. Kelso
Sneak peek of
Shakespeare’s
Julius Caesar
for Kids

Designed for 5-17 actors

(CAESAR, BRUTUS, CASSIUS, and SOOTHSAYER enter)

CAESAR: (to Soothsayer) The Ides of March are come. (mocking Soothsayer and dancing around) And look at me, I’m still here! Neener, neener, neener!!!

SOOTHSAYER: Ay, Caesar, but not gone. In other words, continue watching your back buddy!

CAESAR: Whatever, I will be crowned today!

SOOTHSAYER: You should listen to my warning.

(BRUTUS and CASSIUS are slowly circling CAESAR)

CAESAR: Why are you guys staring at me with those funny looks on your faces? And those sharp swords pointed at…….me.

SOOTHSAYER: I’m outta here! Tried to warn you!

(BRUTUS and CASSIUS start stabbing CAESAR)

CAESAR: (to audience after some stabbing) This really hurts.

CAESAR: (to Brutus) Et tu, Brute! (all stop)

BRUTUS: Huh? What does that mean?

CAESAR: It’s Latin for ‘You too Brutus?’ Sheesh!

BRUTUS: Oh…..yeah (BRUTUS delivers final blow)

CASSIUS: Well we did it, we have freed Rome!

(ANTONY enters and kneels next to Caesar)

ANTONY: O mighty Caesar! Dost thou lie so low? What did you guys do here? What a mess!

BRUTUS: Caesar was my friend, but I did this for Rome!

ANTONY: You do realize that you just started a civil war?

CASSIUS: Hmm, we didn’t think about that.

(ALL exit, CAESAR left on stage)

ACT 3 SCENE 2

(ANTONY, BRUTUS, and CASSIUS enter. TOWNSFOLK enter audience area)

CASSIUS: I don’t trust letting Antony speak at Caesar’s funeral.

BRUTUS: Don’t worry, I have it under control. (addresses audience) Dear Romans, I know it looks bad that we murdered Caesar, but it is not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more. That is why he needed to
kick the bucket. Now please, listen to your new leader, Antony.  

**ANTONY**: *(addresses audience)* Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears; I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him, but truth be told, Brutus is full of baloney, Caesar wasn’t a bad guy. *(TOWNSFOLK say things like, “O noble Caesar”, “O woeful day”, “O most bloody site”, “we will be revenged”).*  

**ANTONY**: Now listen, this is how good Caesar was, in his will, he left all of you money! So, I think revenge is in order. *(TOWNSFOLK say things like, “we will burn the house of BRUTUS”, “Away then, come, seek the conspirators” TOWNSFOLK exit.)*  

**BRUTUS**: I am leaving Rome!  

**CASSIUS**: Me too!  

[Purchase Julius Caesar for Kids](#)
PLAYING WITH PLAYS™ PRESENTS

SHAKESPEARE’S: The Tempest FOR KIDS

3 Short Melodramatic Plays for 3 Group Sizes

creatively edited by Brendan P. Kelso and Khara C. Oliver
Sneak peek of
Shakespeare’s
The Tempest
for Kids

Designed for 7-18 actors

PROSPERO: Hast thou, spirit, performed to point the tempest that I bade thee?
ARIEL: What? Was that English?
PROSPERO: (Frustrated) Did you make the storm hit the ship?
ARIEL: Why didn’t you say that in the first place? Oh yeah! I rocked that ship! They didn’t know what hit them.
PROSPERO: Why, that’s my spirit! But are they, Ariel, safe?
ARIEL: Not a hair perished.
PROSPERO: Woo-hoo! All right. We’ve got more work to do.
ARIEL: Wait a minute. You’re still going to free me, right, Master?
PROSPERO: Oh, I see. Is it sooooo terrible working for me? Huh? Remember when I saved you from that witch? Do you? Remember when that blue-eyed hag locked you up and left you for dead? Who saved you? Me, that’s who!
ARIEL: I thank thee, master.
PROSPERO: I will free you in two days, okay? Sheesh. Patience is a virtue, or haven’t you heard. Right. Where was I? Oh yeah... I need you to disguise yourself like a sea nymph and then... (PROSPERO whispers something in ARIEL’S ear). Got it?
ARIEL: Got it. (ARIEL exits)
PROSPERO: (to MIRANDA) Awake, dear heart, awake! (MIRANDA yawns loudly)
PROSPERO: Shake it off. Come on. We’ll visit Caliban, my slave.
MIRANDA: The witch’s son? You mean the MONSTER! He’s creepy and stinky!!!
PROSPERO: Mysterious and sneaky,
MIRANDA: Altogether freaky,
MIRANDA & PROSPERO: He’s Caliban the slave!!!
(snap, snap!)
PROSPERO: (Calls offstage) What, ho! Slave! Caliban!
(enter CALIBAN)
CALIBAN: Oh, look it’s the island stealers! This is my home! My mother, the witch, left it to me and now you treat me like dirt.
MIRANDA: Oh boo-hoo! I used to feel sorry for you, I even taught you our
language, but you tried to hurt me so now we have to lock you in that cave. **CALIBAN**: I wish I had never learned your language!
**PROSPERO**: Go get us wood! If you don’t, I’ll rack thee with old cramps, and fill all thy bones with aches!
**CALIBAN**: *(to AUDIENCE)* He’s so mean to me! But I have to do what he says. ANNOYING! *(exit CALIBAN)*
*(enter FERDINAND led by “invisible” ARIEL)*
**ARIEL**: *(Singing)* Who let the dogs out?! Woof, woof, woof!! *(Spookily)* The watchdogs bark; bow-wow, bow-wow!
**FERDINAND**: *(Dancing across stage)* Where should this music be? Where is it taking me! What’s going on?

[Link to purchase The Tempest for Kids here]
Sneak peek of
Dickens’
A Christmas Carol
for Kids

Designed for 7-18 actors

(enter SCROOGE and BOB)
BOB: Cold! It’s sooo cold!
SCROOGE: Toughen up, there, Bob! Get back to work!
BOB: Yes, Mr. Scrooge.
(enter FRED)
FRED: (very loud and happy) A Merry Christmas, Uncle!
SCROOGE: (very grumpy) Bah! Humbug! There’s no reason for you to be happy! You’re poor enough.
FRED: And there’s no reason for you to be so cranky! You’re rich enough!
SCROOGE: Bah! Humbug! Every idiot who goes around with ‘Merry Christmas’ on his lips should be boiled in his own pudding and buried with a stake of holly through his heart.
FRED: That’s gross.
SCROOGE: (mean) Well, that’s what it says in the book! And you know what? I believe it too!
FRED: (to the audience) Well, it’s still gross. (to SCROOGE) Look, why don’t you come to my house for Christmas dinner. It’ll be fun!
SCROOGE: Not going to happen.
FRED: Whatever. Have fun being miserable. (starts acting like Scrooge behind his back; BOB laughs) Merry Christmas, Bob!
(FRED exits)
BOB: Merry Christmas to you, Fred! (to SCROOGE) Mr. Scrooge? A man came in earlier and asked if you might give some of your money to the poor. You know, for food and stuff. 10 PlayingWithPlays.com
SCROOGE: (to the audience) Seriously? Give money to the poor? Who would THINK of such a thing! No way!
BOB: (to audience) Well, I tried...
SCROOGE: Time to go home, Bob. You’ll want ALL day tomorrow, I suppose?
BOB: It IS Christmas, sir. Just saying.
SCROOGE: It IS ridiculous. And it’s not fair. I have to pay you for NOT working and that makes me so mad! (stomps up and down)
BOB: Uh, sorry. Bye. (to audience) Wow, he has some real anger issues! I think he needs some counseling!
(BOB and SCROOGE exit opposite sides of stage)

Purchase A Christmas Carol for Kids here
PLAYING WITH PLAYS™ PRESENTS

Shakespeare's
Two Gentlemen of Verona
FOR KIDS

3 Short Melodramatic Plays for 3 Group Sizes

creatively edited by Brendan P. Kelso & Suzy Newman
Sneak peek of Shakespeare’s
Two Gentlemen of Verona for Kids

Designed for 5-16 actors

ANTONIO: It’s not nothing.
PROTEUS: Ahhhhh......It’s a letter from Valentine, telling me what a great time he’s having in Milan, yeah... that’s what it says!
ANTONIO: Awesome! Glad to hear it! Because, you leave tomorrow to join Valentine in Milan.
PROTEUS: What!? Dad! No way! I don’t want... I mean, I need some time. I’ve got some things to do.
ANTONIO: Like what?
PROTEUS: You know...things! Important things! And stuff! Lots of stuff!
ANTONIO: No more excuses! Go pack your bag.
(ANTONIO begins to exit)
PROTEUS: Fie!
ANTONIO: What was that?
PROTEUS: Fiiii......ne with me, Pops! (ANTONIO exits) I was afraid to show my father Julia’s letter, lest he should take exceptions to my love; and my own lie of an excuse made it easier for him to send me away.
ANTONIO: (Offstage) Proteus! Get a move on!!
PROTEUS: Fie!!!
(exit)

ACT 2 SCENE 1
(enter VALENTINE and SPEED following)
VALENTINE: Ah, Silvia, Silvia! (heavy sighs)
SPEED: (mocking) Madam Silvia! Madam Silvia! Gag me.
VALENTINE: Knock it off! You don’t know her.
SPEED: Do too. She’s the one that you can’t stop staring at. Makes me wanna barf.
VALENTINE: I do not stare!
SPEED: You do. AND you keep singing that silly love song. (sing INSERT SAPPY LOVE SONG) You used to be so much fun.
VALENTINE: Huh? (heavy sigh, starts humming SAME LOVE SONG)
SPEED: Never mind.
VALENTINE: I have loved her ever since I saw her. Here she comes!
SPEED: Great. (to audience) Watch him turn into a fool.
VALENTINE: Hey, Silvia.
SILVIA: Hey, Valentine. What’s goin’ on?
VALENTINE: Nothin’. What’s goin’ on with you?
SILVIA: Nothin’.
(Pause)
VALENTINE: What are you doing later?
SILVIA: Not sure. Prob-ly nothin’. You?
VALENTINE: Me neither. Nothin’.
SILVIA: Yea?
VALENTINE: Probably.
SPEED: (to audience) Kill me now.
SILVIA: Well, I guess I better go.
VALENTINE: Oh, okay! See ya’.
(Pause)
SILVIA: See ya’ later maybe?
VALENTINE: Oh, yea! Maybe! Yea! Okay!
SILVIA: Bye.
VALENTINE: Bye!
(Exit SILVIA)
SPEED: (aside) Wow. (to VALENTINE) Dude, what the heck was that?
VALENTINE: I think she has a boyfriend. I can tell.
SPEED: Dude! She is so into you! How could you not see that?
VALENTINE: Do you think?
SPEED: Come on. We’ll talk it through over dinner. (to audience) Fool. Am I right?
(Exit)

Purchase Two Gentlemen of Verona for Kids here
Sneak peek of Charles Dickens’ Oliver Twist for Kids

Designed for 8-22 actors

(enter FAGIN, SIKES, DODGER and NANCY)

DODGER: So that Oliver kid got caught by the police.

FAGIN: He could tell them all our secrets and get us in trouble; we’ve got to find him. Like, in the next 30 seconds or so.

SIKES: Send Nancy. She’s good at getting information quick.

NANCY: Nope. Don’t wanna go, Sikes. I like the kid.

SIKES: She’ll go, Fagin.

NANCY: No, she won’t, Fagin.

SIKES: Yes, she will, Fagin.

NANCY: Fine! Grrrrr….

(NANCY sticks out her tongue at SIKES and storms offstage, then immediately returns)

NANCY: Okay, I checked with my sources and, some gentleman took him home to take care of him.

(FAGIN and DODGER and SIKES stare at FAGIN waiting for direction)

FAGIN: Where?

NANCY: I don’t know.

FAGIN: WHAT!?!? Well don’t just stand there, GO FIND HIM!

(all run offstage, bumping into each other in their haste)

ACT 2 SCENE 2

(enter OLIVER)

OLIVER: (to audience) Mr. Brownlow is so nice! No one has EVER been that nice to me in my life. Anyway, I’m out running an errand for him to prove that I’m a trustworthy boy. I can’t keep hanging out with thieves!

(enter NANCY, who runs over to OLIVER and grabs him; SIKES, FAGIN, and DODGER enter shortly after and follow NANCY)

NANCY: Oh my dear brother! I’ve found him! Oh! Oliver! Oliver!

OLIVER: What?!?! I don’t have a sister!

NANCY: You do now, kid. Let’s go. (she drags OLIVER to FAGIN)

FAGIN: Dodger, take Oliver and lock him up.

DODGER: (to OLIVER) Sorry, dude. (DODGER and OLIVER start to exit)

OLIVER: Aw, man! Seriously? I just found a good home…

NANCY: Don’t be too mean to him, Fagin.
**OLIVER**: *(as he’s exiting)* Yeah, don’t be too mean to me, Fagin!

**SIKES**: *(mimicking NANCY)* Don’t be mean, Fagin. Wah, wah, wah. Look, I need Oliver to help me rob a house, okay? *He is just the size I want* to fit through the window. All sneaky ninja like.

**FAGIN**: Um, sure. He’s all yours. *(all exit but NANCY and OLIVER)*

_Purchase Oliver Twist for Kids here_
Sneak peek of
Shakespeare’s
Twelfth Night
for Kids

Designed for 9-20 actors

(Enter SIR TOBY BELCH, and SIR ANDREW)
TOBY: Sir Andrew, what is with my niece Olivia? I know her brother just died, but she is taking this “mourning” thing waaaaay too seriously. I mean, seven years of being sad, really? Being so sad all the time is not good for your health. (Belches)
ANDREW: (To audience) They don’t call him Sir Toby BELCH for nothing! (To Toby) Since Olivia is being such a bummer, I’ll ride home tomorrow, Sir Toby.
TOBY: Pourquoi, my dear knight?
ANDREW: What is “pourquoi”?
TOBY: Poor-kwah means “why” in French. Makes me sound smart, doesn’t it?
ANDREW: Oh, I wish I had paid more attention in school!
TOBY: Andrew, please stay. Olivia could snap out of it, and who knows, she might actually think you’re cute. (Shakes head at audience)
ANDREW: Oh, alright, I’ll stay a month longer. But let’s go dancing! I’m a really good dancer. (He starts to dance like a crazy man)
TOBY: (Pumps his fist in the air to the beat) Sir Andrew in the HOUSE! Go Andy! Go Andy! Go! Go! Go Andy!
(All exit dancing)

ACT 1 SCENE 4
(Enter ORSINO and VIOLA, who is dressed as a man “Cesario”)
ORSINO: Cesario!
VIOLA: (Looks around for Cesario before remembering SHE is Cesario now) Uh, yes, my lord?
ORSINO: Go tell Olivia how much I like her, no... LOVE her.... Be not denied access, stand at her doors, and stay there till she talks to you.
VIOLA: Orsino, what happened to seven years? 1, 2, 3....
ORSINO: Ugh! Seven, schmevin! (Stamps foot). I don’t care. Be clamorous. Be loud. Be rude. Just don’t take no for an answer!
VIOLA: When I see her, what then?
ORSINO: Tell her I love her. Act like me and say smart things.
VIOLA: And you can’t go because....
ORSINO: ‘Cause I’m a duke! I don’t do anything for myself. And you’re soooo (Confused suddenly) pretty? Er...handsome. (Starts looking funny at VIOLA) Just go!

VIOLA: Fine, fine. I’ll do my best to woo your lady. (To audience pointing at ORSINO) But it’s going to be so hard! Because after these last three days of tying his shoes, I TOTALLY want to marry him myself!

(All exit)

Purchase Twelfth Night for Kids here
Sneak peek of
Robert Louis Stevenson’s
Treasure Island
for Kids

Designed for 7-25 actors

(enter JIM, TRELAWNEY, and DOCTOR; enter CAPTAIN SMOLLETT from the other side of the stage)

TRELAWNEY: Hello Captain. Are we all shipshape and seaworthy?
CAPTAIN: Trelawney, I don’t know what you’re thinking, but I don’t like this cruise; and I don’t like the men.
TRELAWNEY: (very angry) Perhaps you don’t like the ship?
CAPTAIN: Nope, I said it short and sweet.
DOCTOR: What? Why?
CAPTAIN: Because I heard we are going on a treasure hunt and the coordinates of the island are: (whispers to DOCTOR)
DOCTOR: Wow! That’s exactly right!
CAPTAIN: There’s been too much blabbing already.
DOCTOR: Right! But, I doubt ANYTHING will go wrong!
CAPTAIN: Fine. Let’s sail!
(ALL exit)

Act 2 Scene 3
(enter JIM, SILVER, and various other pirates)

SILVER: Ay, ay, mates. You know the song: Fifteen men on the dead man’s chest.
ALL PIRATES: Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum!
(PIRATES slowly exit)

JIM: (to the audience) So, the Hispaniola had begun her voyage to the Isle of Treasure. As for Long John, well, he still is the nicest cook...

SILVER: Do you want a sandwich?
JIM: That would be great, thanks Long John! (SILVER exits; JIM addresses audience) As you can see, Long John is a swell guy! Until....
(JIM hides in the corner)

Act 2 Scene 4
(enter SILVER and OTHER PIRATES)

JIM: (to audience) I overheard Long John talking to the rest of the pirates.
SILVER: Listen here you, Scallywags! I was with Captain Flint when he hid this treasure. And those cowards have the map. Follow my directions, and
no killing, yet. Clear?

**DICK**: Clear.

**SILVER**: But, when we do kill them, I claim Trelawney. And remember, dead men don’t bite.

**GEORGE**: Ay, ay, Long John!

*(ALL exit but JIM)*

**JIM**: *(to audience)* Oh no! Long John Silver IS the one-legged man that Billy Bones warned me about! I have to tell the others!

*(JIM runs off stage)*

**Purchase Treasure Island for Kids here**
SHAKESPEARE'S: MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING FOR KIDS

3 Short Melodramatic Plays for 3 Group Sizes

creatively edited by Brendan P. Kelso
Sneak peek of Shakespeare’s
Much Ado About Nothing for Kids

Designed for 8-20 actors

(enter DON JOHN and BORACHIO)
DON JOHN: Borachio, my friend, I am sooo jealous. I do not like my brother, Don Pedro.
BORACHIO: Why?
DON JOHN: (very upset) Because everybody likes him, and not me! I would much rather be a canker in a hedge, than a rose in his grace.
BORACHIO: Why?
DON JOHN: Because I am a plain-dealing Villain!
BORACHIO: Why?
DON JOHN: Would you stop asking me that?
BORACHIO: Why?
(DON JOHN pulls his sword on BORACHIO)
BORACHIO: Um…Don John?
DON JOHN: What do you want, Borachio!?!?
BORACHIO: Well sir, it appears that Claudio likes Hero and, your brother, Don Pedro, is going to try and woo her on his behalf.
DON JOHN: (very calm with an evil look in his eye) Really?
BORACHIO: Yes, really. Tonight, at the masquerade ball.
DON JOHN: Sweet! (to the audience) I will use this to build mischief! You are sure, and will assist me?
BORACHIO: To the death, my lord.

ACT 2 SCENE 1
(enter HERO, LEONATO, BEATRICE)
HERO: I’m excited for the dance!
LEONATO: Remember, daughter, if some guy asks you to marry him, you should say, “Yes”.
BEATRICE: Why? What if he’s ugly, like Benedick? Men are dirty, smelly, and have prickly beards! I could not endure a husband with a beard on his face.
LEONATO: My niece, thou wilt never get thee a husband, if thou be so shrewd of thy tongue.
BEATRICE: Don’t go all “Shakespeare” on me! I am very happy being single, because there is no man good enough for me! I will live as merry as
the day is long.

**HERO**: Oh, here come the guests. The party is starting!

(enter **DON PEDRO, CLAUDIO, BENEDICK, DON JOHN, and BORACHIO**.

*Other townsfolk may be here for more dancers; ALL men enter wearing masks; It must be clear to the audience, who is whom for the confusion to work!*)

**DON PEDRO**: *(to Hero)* Hey, I think you’re cute. Do you want to dance?

**HERO**: Sure, you seem nice. What’s your name?

**DON PEDRO**: Claudio. *(DON PEDRO lifts mask and winks at the audience; they dance)*

**BEATRICE**: *(to BENEDICK as they dance badly)* And who are you?

**BENEDICK**: Uhhhhh….not Benedick.

**BEATRICE**: You sure dance like him, because he dances like a very dull fool!

**BENEDICK**: Ouch! That was mean. It’s a good thing I’m not Benedick. He would probably say something back like, “You LOOK like a very dull fool!”

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Sneak peek of Shakespeare’s
Hamlet for Kids

Designed for 6-20 actors

(enter GERTRUDE and POLONIUS)
GERTRUDE: What’s up, Polonius?
POLONIUS: I am going to hide and spy on your conversation with Hamlet!
GERTRUDE: Oh, okay.
(POLONIUS hides somewhere, enter HAMLET very mad, swinging his sword around)
HAMLET: MOM!!! I AM VERY MAD!
GERTRUDE: Ahhh! You scared me!
(POLONIUS sneezes from hiding spot)
HAMLET: (not seeing POLONIUS) How now, a rat? Who’s hiding? (stabs POLONIUS)
POLONIUS: O, I am slain! Ohhhh the pain! (dies on stage)
GERTRUDE: Oh me, what has thou done?
HAMLET: Oops, I thought that was Claudius. Hmph, oh well... as I was saying, I AM MAD you married uncle Claudius!
GERTRUDE: Oh that, yeah, sorry. (in a motherly voice)
Now, you just killed Polonius, clean up this mess and go to your room!
HAMLET: Okay Mom.
(all exit, HAMLET drags POLONIUS’ body off stage)

ACT 4 SCENES 1-3

(enter GERTRUDE and CLAUDIUS)
GERTRUDE: Ahhh, Dear?
CLAUDIUS: Yeah?
GERTRUDE: Ummmm, you would not believe what I have seen tonight!
Polonius is dead.
CLAUDIUS: WHAT!?
GERTRUDE: Yeah, Hamlet was acting a little crazy, Polonius sneezed or something, then Hamlet yelled, “A rat, a rat!” and then WHACK! It was over.
CLAUDIUS: (very angry) HAMLET!!!! GET OVER HERE NOW!!!!!
(enter HAMLET)
CLAUDIUS: (very casual) Hey, what’s up?
HAMLET: What noise, who calls on Hamlet? What do you want?
CLAUDIUS: Now, Hamlet. Where’s Polonius’ body?
HAMLET: I’m not telling!
CLAUDIUS: Oh come on, please tell me!!! Please! With a cherry on top!
Where is Polonius?
HAMLET: Oh, all right. He’s over there, up the stairs into the lobby. (points off stage)
(POLONIUS enters and dies again)
CLAUDIUS: Ewe... he’s a mess! Hamlet, I am sending you off to England.
HAMLET: Fine! Farewell, dear Mother. And I’m taking this with me!
(HAMLET grabs POLONIUS and drags him off stage)
(all exit but CLAUDIUS)
CLAUDIUS: (to audience) I have arranged his execution in England! (laughs evilly as he exits) Muwahahaha....

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FOR KIDS

3 Short Melodramatic Plays for 3 Group Sizes

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Designed for 6-18 actors

(enter FRIAR LAWRENCE, ROMEO, JULIET)
JULIET: My Nurse told me to meet you here to be married.
FRIAR LAWRENCE: Are you ready?
ROMEO: Ready.
JULIET: Ready.
FRIAR LAWRENCE: Okay, all done, you’re married. You can now kiss the bride.
(ROMEO and JULIET look at each other and then towards FRIAR LAWRENCE shaking their heads ‘no’)
FRIAR LAWRENCE: Okay, fine, you can hug then.
(ROMEO and JULIET look at each other and then towards FRIAR LAWRENCE shaking their heads ‘no’)
FRIAR LAWRENCE: Okay, fine, you can shake hands then.
(ROMEO and JULIET look at each other and decide to high five instead)
(ALL exit)

ACT 3 SCENE 1
(enter BENVOLIO and MERCUTIO. Enter TYBALT from opposite side)
TYBALT: (angry) Where’s Romeo?
MERCUTIO: You want some of me?
TYBALT: No, I want Romeo.
(enter ROMEO)
ROMEO: My good friends.
TYBALT: Bring it on Romeo.
ROMEO: I will not fight you.
MERCUTIO: (wanting to fight) Come on Romeo.
ROMEO: No, I have my reasons.
BENVOLIO: We should listen to Romeo.
MERCUTIO: Fine, I’ll fight him.
TYBALT: Bring it on!
(MERCUTIO and TYBALT fight)
ROMEO: NO!
(TYBALT stabs MERCUTIO)
ROMEO: Mercutio!
MERCUTIO: A plague on both your houses.

(MERCUTIO dies)

ROMEO: Nooooooooooo, Mercutio! Aghhh....Tybalt, I’m really upset, I mean really, REALLY upset.

BENVOLIO: Romeo, remember what you said about not fighting.

TYBALT: Oh yeah!

ROMEO: Yeah!

(ROMEO and TYBALT fight, TYBALT is killed)

BENVOLIO: Romeo, away, be gone.

(ROMEO exits. PRINCE enters)

PRINCE: What in the world happened here? Why are there dead bodies on the ground all over MY streets? Huh?

BENVOLIO: Well, Tybalt killed Mercutio, and then Romeo killed Tybalt.

PRINCE: Fine, then Romeo is banished from Verona, and clean up this mess!

(BENVOLIO drags bodies off stage; ALL exit)

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Sneak peek of
Shakespeare’s
Macbeth
for Kids

Designed for 6-17 actors

(DUNCAN runs on stage and dies with a dagger stuck in him, MACBETH drags his body off and then returns with the bloody dagger. LADY MACBETH enters)

LADY MACBETH: Did you do it?
MACBETH: (clueless) Do what?
LADY MACBETH: KILL HIM!
MACBETH: Oh yeah, all done. I have done the deed.
LADY MACBETH: (pointing at the dagger) What is that?
MACBETH: What?
LADY MACBETH: Why do you still have the bloody dagger with you?
MACBETH: Ummmmm, I don’t know.
LADY MACBETH: Well, go put it back!
MACBETH: NO! I’m scared of the dark, and there is a dead body in there.
LADY MACBETH: Man you are a wimp, give it to me.
(LADY MACBETH takes the dagger, exits, and returns)
LADY MACBETH: All done.
(there is a loud knock at the door)
LADY MACBETH: It’s 2am! This really is not a good time for more visitors.
(goes to the door) Who is it?
(opens door)
MACDUFF: It is Macduff. I am here to see the king.
MACBETH: He is sleeping in there.
(MACDUFF exits while MACBETH and LADY MACBETH look at each other)
MACDUFF: (off stage scream) AGHHHHHHHHHHH – He’s dead!!! he’s dead!!! (MACDUFF enters)
MACBETH: Who?
MACDUFF: Who do you think? (they both scream)
BANQUO: (BANQUO enters) What happened, can’t someone get a good night sleep around here?
MACDUFF: The king has been murdered.
BANQUO: (pointing off stage) Oh look, there goes Malcolm, the king’s son, he just heard and is leaving for England.
MACDUFF: Well since there is no one left to be King, why don’t you do it, Mac?
LADY MACBETH & MACBETH: Okay. (LADY MACBETH, MACBETH and MACDUFF exit)
BANQUO: (to audience) I fear, Thou play’dst most fouly for’t (MACBETH returns)
MACBETH: Bank, what are you thinking over there?
BANQUO: Oh nothing. (said with a big fake smile) Gotta go! See ya!
(BANQUO exits)
MACBETH: I don’t trust Banquo, he knows too much. I need to have my murderer take care of him.
(MACBETH exits offstage) Hey, Murderer!

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SHAKESPEARE'S: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM FOR KIDS

3 Short Melodramatic Plays for 3 Group Sizes

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Sneak peek of Shakespeare’s
A Midsummer Night’s Dream for Kids

Designed for 9-20 actors

HERMIA: Oh .... LYSANDER!!!!! *(LYSANDER enters)*
LYSANDER: What’s wrong, Hermia?
HERMIA: My dad wants me to marry Demetrius, bleh... but I want to marry you, Lysander!
LYSANDER: That’s all right, Hermia. The course of true love never did run smooth. We’ll run off to my Aunt’s house. She lives in a place that is far, far, far away and we will go through the enchanted forest in the middle of the night, and probably get lost!
HERMIA: Sounds great! *(HELENA enters)*
HELENA: *(depressed)* Oh Hermia, Demetrius loves your beauty. Why can’t I be cute like you, then maybe he would love my beauty!
HERMIA: Wow, stinks to be you. Hey, want to know a secret?
HELENA: Yeah!
HERMIA: *(as if whispering in her ear)*, Lysander and I are going to run off to his Aunt’s house. It’s far, far, far away. Promise me you will not tell a single person!
HELENA: Promise! *(HERMIA and LYSANDER exit)* *(to audience)* Hmmmm....I have a better idea, why don’t I let Demetrius know of fair Hermia’s flight, and then maybe he will fall in love with me! *(HELENA exits)*

ACT 1 SCENE 2

*(MECHANICALS enter)*
QUINCE: Is all our company here?
MECHANICALS: Yes!
QUINCE: Fabulous! We are going to perform a play before the Duke and Duchess on his wedding day.
MECHANICALS: Yeah!
QUINCE: Our play is ‘The most lamentable comedy, and most cruel death of Pyramus and Thisbe’, and we shall call it...... “Pyramus and Thisbe”.
MECHANICALS: Yeah!
QUINCE: Bottom, you will play Pyramus.
BOTTOM: No, No, No! That’s not acceptable! I deserve the best part because I am the best actor!
FLUTE: *(to other mechanicals or audience)* More like OVERactor.
BOTTOM: I heard that. *(glaring at Flute)*
QUINCE: That is the best part. Flute, you will play Thisbe.
FLUTE: *(spoken in a very manly voice)* Great! What is Thisbe? A wandering knight?
QUINCE: No, she is the lead female part, and you can talk in a small voice.
FLUTE: What?! Did I hear you right? Let me not play a woman; I have a beard coming.
BOTTOM: Let me play Thisbe too! *(starts acting like a girl)*
QUINCE: No. You already have a part, the best part.
BOTTOM: Yeah, yeah.
QUINCE: That leaves us with Thisbe’s mother, the Lion’s part, let’s see....
BOTTOM: I can play the Lion’s part too! Listen to my lion’s roar! *(Bottom starts to roar)*
QUINCE: No. No. NO! You would fright the Duchess and the ladies, that they would shriek; and that were enough to hang us all.
BOTTOM: Man, you are tough! *(as MECHANICALS exit FLUTE says his line)*
FLUTE: Do I have to play a girl? This is not good, not good at all. *(all exit)*

*Purchase A Midsummer Night’s Dream for Kids here*
ABOUT THE AUTHORS

BRENDAN P. KELSO, came to writing modified Shakespeare scripts when he was taking time off from work to be at home with his newly born son. “It just grew from there”. Within months, he was being asked to offer classes in various locations and acting organizations along the Central Coast of California. Employed as an engineer, Brendan never thought about writing. However, his unique personality, humor, and love for engaging the kids with The Bard, has led him to leave the engineering world and pursue writing as a new adventure in life! He has always believed, “the best way to learn is to have fun!” Brendan makes his home on the Central Coast of California and loves to spend time with his wife and son.

KHARA C. OLIVER first fell in love with Shakespeare in 8th grade after reading Hamlet, and she has been an avid fan ever since. She studied Shakespeare’s works in Stratford-upon-Avon, and graduated with a degree in English from UCLA. Khara is lucky to have a terrific career and a charmed life on the Central Coast of CA, but what she cherishes most is time spent with her husband and children. She is delighted to have this chance to help kids foster their own appreciation of Shakespeare in a way that is educational, entertaining, and most importantly, fun!

SUZY NEWMAN, is an actor and theatre director based in San Luis Obispo, CA. Her affinity for theatre surfaced later than most and after graduating from college, she jumped ship from her childhood career path and planted her feet firmly on the stage. Shakespeare dominated her first decade of acting and she’s played many of his great women - and a few of his men. She earned her MFA in Acting in 2000 and continues to freelance as an actor, director, acting coach, teacher and writer. She is also the singer for a rock band, which is simply another opportunity to laugh and create with a group of like-minded people.