

QUOTING SHAKESPEARE

► Thematic Part pages 154–155

Possible lead-in: you may start by asking students what they know about Shakespeare, whether they have read any of his plays and whether they liked them.

After students have done Exercise 1, do not give them the answers – they should find them out from the text.

The theater in the photo is the reconstructed Globe in London, which is as faithful a copy of Shakespeare's Globe as was possible considering the limited evidence that exists and modern-day safety regulations. Students might read up the story of the reconstruction on the Internet, or find videos of performances.

After listening to the recording in Exercise 7, it is worth pointing out that towards the end of his career (from 1608) Shakespeare worked in a new theatre, which was very different. It was an indoor space, lit with candles and equipped with some stage machinery; tricks with light and various other effects became possible, and Shakespeare's late plays (*A Winter's Tale*, *Pericles*, *The Tempest*) were written with those new opportunities in mind.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: SHAKESPEARE'S LIFE

The most important thing to know about Shakespeare's life (1564–1616) is that we know very little about it. We don't even know the exact date of his birth: only the date of his baptism, 26 April 1564, is recorded in the Stratford parish register. We know the names of his parents, his wife (Anne Hathaway), and his children (Suzanna, Judith, Hamnet). We know there was a good grammar school in Stratford and it is very likely he was educated there, but there are no documents to prove it. There are the 'lost years' of his life (1585–1592), of which nothing is known at all. He did not go to university. Later we know of his artistic and financial success as a playwright and co-owner of an acting company in London. But no personal documents have survived: no manuscripts of his plays or poems; no letters; no diary or journal; nothing at all certainly written in Shakespeare's hand except for his signature on his will; no books from his library. We know a good deal about his financial affairs: which houses he bought and what he left to his relatives in his will, but nothing about his intellectual or spiritual life. This lack of documents is not surprising, considering that the last house Shakespeare lived in was destroyed several centuries ago; but it has led to the emergence of a number of fantastic theories about Shakespeare, including the idea that he did not write his plays. Fortunately for us the plays themselves have survived, in Quarto editions published during the author's lifetime and in an elegant Folio edition, carefully prepared for publication by the poet's friends and collaborators in 1623, only seven years after his death.

1 1b 2b 3a 4a 5b

3 Shakespeare's achievements: *He knew how to tell a good story. He created memorable characters. He was brilliant at portraying emotions. He knew how to construct a play that would hold an audience's attention.*

The most unusual achievement: *But what makes him unique is that he created an enormous number of words and expressions that have entered the English language, so that today we often use them without realising they are quotations.*

5 1b 2h 3a 4i 5j 6f 7c 8d 9e

7 1

- The *stage* was almost bare, there were doors at the back, there might be a chair or bench;
- the *two columns* supported the roof above the stage; they were useful if a character was to hide and, for example, overhear a conversation;
- It cost a penny to *stand in a space like an arena*;
- If you could afford three pence you'd sit in a *wooden gallery*.

2 Through the Prologue Shakespeare told the audience to imagine everything: two kingdoms and the sea that separates them, an imaginary army, and horses.

3 A boy wearing a wig.

4 They were real – they had belonged to rich people who died and left them to their servants, who sold them on to actors.

FAMOUS FILM QUOTES

► Thematic Part pages 156–157

Possible lead-in: You may start by asking students whether they recognise any of the photos, whether they have seen any of the films shown in them, and whether they remember any memorable lines spoken by the characters.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE FILMS

Here is a list of the films quoted in the text with their world release dates, the names of the directors and also of the scriptwriters, since they are the ones who wrote the classic lines.
Star Wars – directed by George Lucas, written by George Lucas; 1977
Life of Brian – directed by Terry Jones; written by Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones and Michael Palin; 1979
Casablanca – directed by Michael Curtiz; written by Julius J. Epstein and Philip G. Epstein, based on the play *Everybody Comes to Rick’s* by Murray Burnett and Joan Alison; 1942
Duck Soup – directed by Leo McCarey, written by Bert Kalmar and Harry Ruby; 1933
The Third Man – directed by Carol Reed, written by Graham Greene; 1949
The Terminator – directed by James Cameron, written by James Cameron and Gale Ann Hurd; 1984
Taxi Driver – directed by Martin Scorsese, written by Paul Schrader; 1976
Some Like It Hot – directed by Billy Wilder, written by Billy Wilder and I.A.L. Diamond; 1959

Possible follow-up: You may have a class vote on which of the films mentioned in the text to watch in class.

Possible writing tasks:
Write a review of a film which you like because of well-written dialogue and memorable lines.
Write a review of one of the films mentioned in the lesson.

- 1 A – Star Wars B – Some like it hot C – Terminator D – Taxi Driver
- 2 1d 2b 3h 4a 5f 6e 7i 8c
- 3 1a 2b 3c 4b 5a
- 4 1 Tarzan: *Jane. Tarzan. Jane. Tarzan.*
2 James Cagney: *That dirty, double-crossing rat.*
3 Oliver Hardy: *Well, here’s another nice mess you’ve gotten me into!*
4 Obi Wan Kenobi: *The Force will be with you /Use the Force, Luke.*
5 Humphrey Bogart: *You played it for her, you can play it for me. If she can stand it, I can. Play it!*

FICTIONAL LITERARY CHARACTERS

► Thematic Part pages 158–159

When working on Exercise 4, students may find classifying the works according to genre difficult, and they may well ask about the meaning of the term ‘genre’ in English; an explanation is provided below.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: WHAT EXACTLY IS GENRE IN ENGLISH?

The problem with the word *genre* is that the term is used somewhat loosely in English to refer to several different classifications, which are described by different names in other languages. Firstly, then, *genre* refers to the three broadest categories of literature: *prose*, *poetry* and *drama*, or more traditionally *epic*, *lyric* and *dramatic*. Secondly, the same term is used for the narrower classifications based on form, such as *novel*, *short story* or *sonnet*. Finally, the word *genre* is also applied to the topic-based categories of fiction used, for example, in bookshops to label the different sections: *crime*, *science fiction*, *fantasy*, *children’s literature* and so on. So the answer to the question *What genre does ‘The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes’ belong to?* can be threefold: it’s *prose*; it’s a collection of short stories; it’s *crime fiction*.

Possible writing tasks:
Write a review of a book which features a character you like.
Describe a character from fiction that you especially like.

- 2 2
- 3 1 F 2 T 3 T 4 F
- 4

Title	Author	Genre(s)
Pride and Prejudice (1813)	Jane Austen	Romance
Oliver Twist (1837-39) & A Christmas Carol (1843)	Charles Dickens	Humour
Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland (1865)	Lewis Carroll	Children’s Fantasy
The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (1892)	Arthur Conan Doyle	Crime Mystery
Peter Pan (1911)	J.M. Barrie	Children’s
The Spy Who Loved Me (James Bond) (1962)	Ian Fleming	Spy Thriller
Bridget Jones’s Diary (1996)	Helen Fielding	Humour Romance
Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone (1997)	J.K. Rowling	Children’s Fantasy Adventure

- 5 Caller 1 – Oliver Twist & Ebenezer Scrooge
Caller 2 – Hermione Granger
Caller 3 – Peter Pan
Caller 4 – Elizabeth Bennet
Caller 6 – James Bond
- 6 a 4 b 5 c 1 d 2 e – f 3