

ENGLISH



Welcome to the English Super Curriculum. Below you'll find a whole host of things to do to stretch yourself beyond the classroom curriculum.

April is a month that celebrates the birth of Shakespeare and, on the very first day of the month, there is a day that marks fools. Let's look in more detail at the big idea of folly (a synonym for foolery and madness) and how it is crafted in literature and drama.

READ

Read this analysis about Shakespeare's comedy *Twelfth Night*. Feste, the professional fool who entertains the household of Lady Olivia, is both humorous and astute in his observations.

The well-known phrase 'wise enough to play the fool' is attributed to this court jester by another perceptive character who also has to outwardly disguise their true nature:

[Feste: Twelfth Night](#) - nosweatshakespeare.com

WATCH

Carol-Ann Duffy's *Mrs Midas* is a poem that cleverly shifts its attention to the predicament of the woman who married a fool.

The poem, which can be found below, alludes to the fable of King Midas, who foolishly wished that everything he touched turned to gold:

[Mrs Midas by Carol Ann Duffy](#) - scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk

You can watch Duffy's poetry performance here: [The World's Wife: Mrs Midas, Carol Ann Duffy](#) - YouTube

LISTEN

Learn about the archetypal characters in the performing art form of *Commedia dell'Arte*.

Take note of the zanni role as you learn more about the classic Italian drama style, characterised by masked actors.

Listen to the National Theatre clip about this genre here:

[The World of Commedia dell'Arte](#) - YouTube

DO

Now, plan to craft a short story, sketch or poem about a foolish character or the theme of folly and madness.