

# 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.

Let's take a look at this month's focus: Shakespeare's comedies.

## READ

On 23rd April, we celebrate the great Bard's birth. Back in February, we explored some of his most memorable tragedies and now we will turn our attention to his comedies. Some of his jokes may not have stood the test of time, but several of these works are still bringing a laugh to those who encounter them.

Often, it's *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Twelfth Night* and *The Tempest* that come to mind when you ask people to name one of the playwright's most notable comedies.

Take a look at the 14 comedies listed and explore the more light-hearted tales that intrigued the Elizabethan and Jacobean audiences that Shakespeare's work spanned:

[Tragedies, Comedies and Histories](#) - rsc.org.uk

## LISTEN

*Twelfth Night* is a play where we follow the story of shipwrecked twins, Viola and Sebastian, who believe the other has perished at sea.

Viola disguises herself as a boy and serves in the court of Duke Orsino. Orsino takes a liking to his new servant and sends him with messages of love to the Countess Olivia to win her affection. Olivia, however, falls in love with the servant and Viola develops feelings for Orsino. What a pickle!

[Twelfth Night | Act 2 Scene 2: A Shakespearean love triangle? Awkward!](#) - YouTube

## WATCH

Shakespearean comedies are full of mistaken identity, the supernatural, farcical moments of slapstick and singing and fools - jester-like characters who often are wiser than they first appear.

Although comedies naturally end with loose ends being tied up and romantic resolution, these are often contrasted with underlying themes of jealousy, social cruelty or unfulfilled desire. Likewise, comic moments creep into Shakespeare's tragedies, too:

[Shakespeare's Comedy: BBC Teach](#) - YouTube

## DO

Pick a comedy that interests you and do a deep dive into it. Use the Royal Shakespeare Company's Learning Zone to help you research the play of your choice:

[Shakespeare Learning Zone](#) - rsc.org.uk