

Think and learn

1 Read and complete the sentences.

characters comedies history plays
make-up props special effects tragedies

- 1 The characters are the people that the play is about.
- 2 The props are the objects that actors use when they are in a play.
- 3 Actors sometimes use make-up on their faces so that they look more like the characters.
- 4 In the theatre, special effects can be created by using lights or sounds.
- 5 Shakespeare wrote ten histories. They were all about kings of England.
- 6 Shakespeare's tragedies are quite serious plays. Often something sad or bad happens.
- 7 Lots of funny things happen in Shakespeare's comedies and they can be quite confusing!

2

History, comedy or tragedy? Read about six of Shakespeare's plays and complete the chart.

Richard III Richard of Gloucester is the King's younger brother. He wants to be king. He will do anything to become king himself and doesn't always tell the truth.



Twelfth Night Viola and Sebastian are twins. Viola dresses as a boy to get a job with the Duke. The Duke's daughter believes she is a boy and wants to marry her! There are lots of jokes and confusion.

Hamlet Hamlet's father dies. His mother marries his uncle. He sees his father's ghost and wants to find out the truth. There is a lot of fighting. Many people die, including Hamlet.



The Tempest After a fight with his brother, Antonio, Prospero goes to live on an island. When Antonio's ship has an accident at sea, he arrives on the same island. Antonio's son wants to marry Prospero's daughter. After a party and some magic, everyone is friends again.



Macbeth Macbeth sees some women who tell him he will be king. His wife tells him to kill the King. He does, but he is afraid that other people will find out, so he kills them too. He and his wife both become mad because they feel so bad.

Henry V The action takes place in the 15th century. Henry V is the King of England. He is at war with France, but eventually makes peace – and marries a French princess!



HISTORY

Richard III

TRAGEDY

COMEDY

3 Read about the six Shakespeare plays again and write a name.

Who ...

- 1 has a twin sister? Sebastian
- 2 is told he will become king? _____
- 3 isn't always honest? _____
- 4 marries someone from a different country? _____
- 5 sees a ghost? _____
- 6 goes to live on an island? _____

4  Project Read and complete the mind map about your project.



5  Project Write a short description of your theatre stage.
