

Shakespeare viewing project

Due Oct. 23

Watch a stage or film version of a Shakespeare play. The play is almost entirely your choice. But it has to be in English in Shakespeare's language. Thus, alas, Kurasowa's *Throne of Blood* and *Ran* are out, so is *Ten Things I Hate About You*. *Romeo and Juliet* (overdone) is out. Hamlet and Much Ado About Nothing cannot be used for this project, but it might help to watch them before we study the plays. If you attend a live performance you may see any Shakespearean play that is in the original language.

To help you find a film:

Here is a list of [recommended films](#) from the Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2015/oct/09/10-best-shakespeare-screen-adaptations>

Here is the Daily Beast [list](#).

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/what-are-the-best-shakespeare-movies>

Here is a [list on IMDb](#)

<https://www.imdb.com/list/ls060637860/>

And one more excellent and useful [list from Backstage](#)

<https://www.backstage.com/news/17-shakespeare-films-worth-watching/>

The (British) National Theater Production of King Lear will be shown in movie theaters for one night on Sept 27. It's at Century Arden and XD at 7 p.m.

https://www.fathomevents.com/events/nt-live-king-lear?gclid=CjwKCAjw85zdBRB6EiwAov3Ris3aL0YLMkpxRvhKZyK6irnEERkZ-UVqPTQ52p0IYzDw6ow5Gvep0BoCBTsQAvD_BwE

Audience: Plays are meant to be seen in community. For a film version, you will receive extra credit if you create an audience. Stage performances automatically get this. Watch with at least two parent/guardian/parent-like figures, such as grandma, or three or more fellow AP lit students for 5 points extra credit on this assignment.

My experience of watching plays when I was young was that the language was confusing at first but became clearer as the play went on. To help myself, back when, before seeing a play, I would read at least the first scene or two. Everybody should look at the character list and setting. I am requiring you to do these things and briefly and informally (and in handwriting) record this. Aside from that, all you need to do is watch--and, I hope, enjoy--the play. If you watch with an audience and discuss the play for at least 20 minutes (theme, production value, characterization, camera shots, setting, mood, casting etc.), I will count this for part 6. Just write a sentence saying you talked about it. Be honest.

Turn in:

1. A one-page handwritten summary of the first couple scenes, based on the text, which you have actually read. Include something about the dramatic situation (write this before watching)
2. A handwritten list of characters with a short phrase of description (write this before watching)
3. A handwritten couple of sentences on the setting(s)
4. A handwritten two-page summary of the rest of the play as presented in the film drawing not just on the text, but on the way it is presented on film (do this soon after watching)
5. Write out three quotations (2-8 lines each), at least 10 lines in total, from the play. You may get them by searching the internet after watching. For each, paraphrase it into modern English, and explain its significance in a couple sentences.
6. Write a one-page reflection on the play, the adaptation of the play and the experience of viewing

Total points: 40