



Teacher review:

Caroline Henrichs - Denison Montessori School
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My name is Caroline Henrichs and I am a Montessori Elementary School Teacher. For the last 6 months I have been leading the Shakespeare Club at Denison Montessori School which culminated in an incredible festival in downtown Denver. Now reflecting on the experience, I feel the need to express my enormous gratitude for the support I gained from the CDs I purchased from the Early Shakespeare Company. It was truly remarkable and such a great guide for a novice teacher taking on a schools Shakespeare Club! What I especially enjoyed about the CDs was the way the students could choose the specific level appropriate to their needs to learn the stories. There are all different levels which met the needs of all the different age levels of my students. My 6 year olds loved to work in an interactive way on the computer clicking on the characters and listening to the simple quotes which clearly told the story. My 8 year olds worked on an intermediate level relishing in the more intricate details and then my 12 year olds worked on the highest level to gain a fully in depth understand of the play. I cannot believe how much time these CDs saved me and can't even imagine doing all the work by myself from scratch.

I loved the voiceovers of the English actors and being able to give my students the experience of hearing the original speeches performed and brought to life as it would be in the Globe theatre.

The students loved creating their own box theatres and acting out the stories with puppets included in the CDs resources. I also used the resources from the Early Shakespeare website to help teach them about Shakespeare's life.

It was fantastic to have two CDs with the comedy love story 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and the famous love tragedy 'Romeo and Juliet'. We could compare the two plays and my older students could make connections. Similarities are also mentioned in the extend learning and these were a great starting point for class discussions.

The software is so simple to use with wonderful simple cartoon characters that depict the characters in the play. The students click on the characters who then in turn speak the famous quotes from the play. What I thought was so clever was the way the software managed to recount the story on so many different levels of intellect. Some of my students speak very little English and I did not think I would be able to engage them with Shakespeare, but they absolutely loved the Shakespeare Club and I think having the symbols above the words even helped them with English language. This tool is so cleverly differentiated that now I have my Special Education Teachers using it on their students with special needs. I feel so indebted to this wonderful tool and am thrilled by how much it helped me set a solid foundation of understanding for my students.

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