

Spot on facts

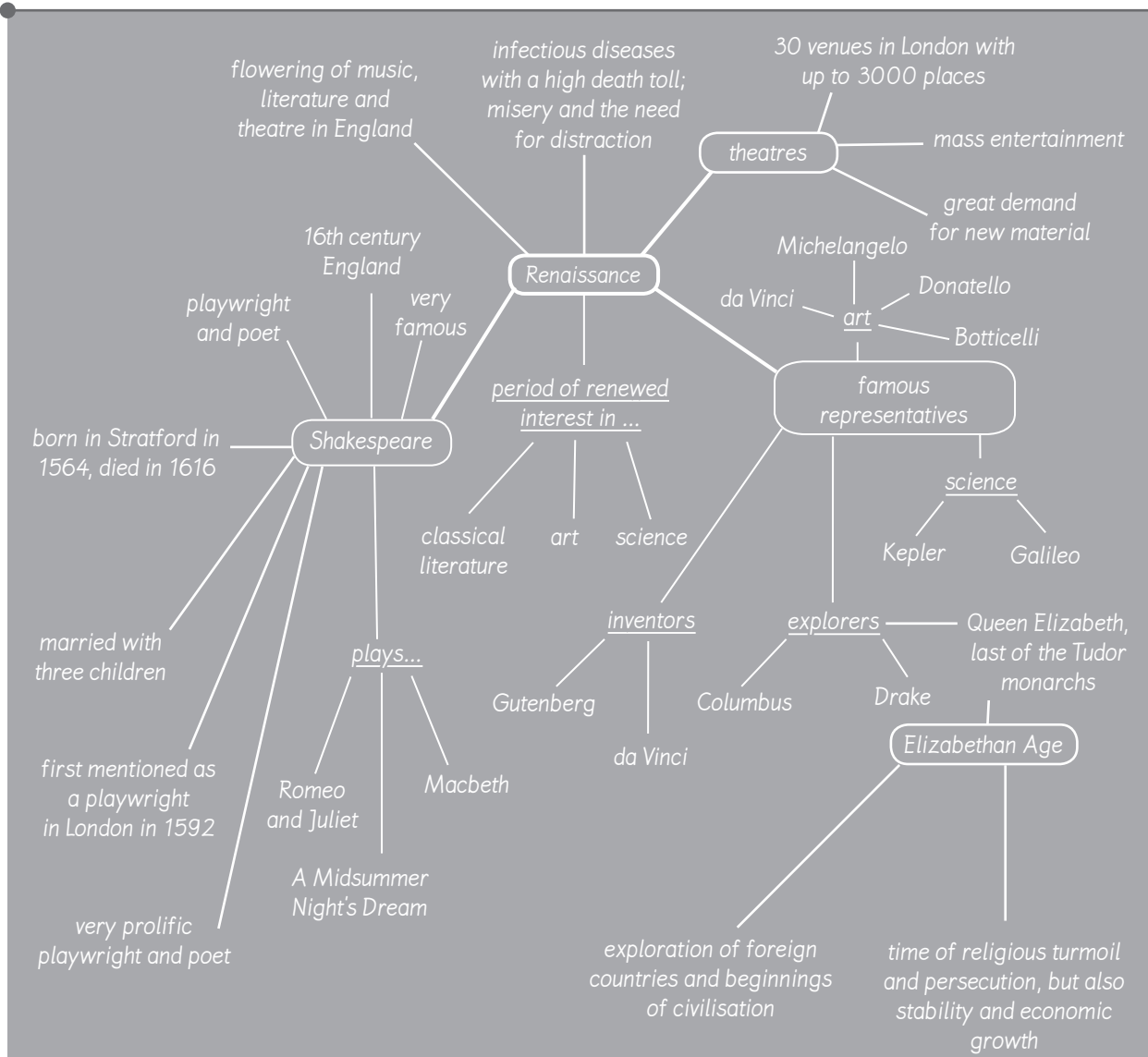
LISTENING © L3/7 **1** Listen to what two actors say about Shakespeare. Why is he still so ...? → S21

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG Shakespeare is still so fascinating because of the following points:

- He reminds us of the better people we want to be.
- His stories become alive on stage.
- He seems to know many things about the human nature.
- He writes easily and naturally.
- He is an excellent story-teller.
- His plays are alive and meaningful.

COMPREHENSION **2** Complete your mind map from Task 1 on the Introduction pages ...

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG



**SPEAKING 3** Research one of these topics to find out more about it and give ...

**LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG** Individual answers expected.

## Spot on language

**1** Change these sentences from Shakespearean English into modern English.

- LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG**
1. Haven't you got a brother like you, my lord?
  2. Where does this flower grow?
  3. You've got it now.
  4. Do not be afraid.
  5. Can you see this letter?
  6. She did not stay long.
  7. What did he look like?
  8. You can see with your own eyes.
  9. Why did you do this?
  10. You did not like that.

**2** In Shakespeare's day, the subjunctive (e.g. "The Lord be praised") was ...

- LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG**
1. Although this is madness, there is method in it. (There is method in my madness.)
  2. Do you want to go? It isn't day yet. (It isn't dawn yet.)
  3. If you know about this, then we have done you wrong.
  4. Where do you want me to go to answer this charge? (Where should I go to answer ...?)
  5. Wake Duncan up with your knocking! I wish you could.
  6. I wish there was/were no age between sixteen and twenty-three.

**3** Shakespeare invented or at least popularised a great number ...

- LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG**
1. "in a pickle": in a difficult and unpleasant situation. The coach is in trouble.
  2. "too much of a good thing": more of something you like than is good for you. Three babies are more than you can easily deal with.
  3. "she wears her heart on her sleeve": she often displays her emotions (too) openly. Mandy should be more careful what she says.
  4. "the laughing stock of the team": the player everyone laughs at because of something stupid he has done. Everyone made fun of him because he played so badly.
  5. "break the ice": to say something that makes people feel more relaxed. He made her feel less nervous by complimenting her on her dress.
  6. "they have eaten me out of house and home": to eat everything that someone has in the house. They have eaten so much that I have run out of provisions.
  7. "the game is up": the trick or crime has been discovered. We know you are lying; stop pretending.
  8. "melt into thin air": to disappear. The manager has vanished without a trace.
  9. "to be snatched out of the jaws of death": to be saved from death. The surgeon only just managed to save his life.
  10. "he played fast and loose": in a reckless and irresponsible manner. Like many other investors he was neither careful nor responsible.

**4** A friend from your partner school in England tells you about a ...

- LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG**
- Hi Ben
- Thanks for your mail. So you are doing a Shakespeare play at school? Wow.
- The language is not easy, I know, so I can understand your concern. But I'm not so sure if a modernised version is better. I came across an article in a newspaper here the other day about an English satirist, Martin Baum, who has rewritten some of Shakespeare's plays using slang.

His aim was to write versions of the plays that might attract younger readers who fail to understand Elizabethan English.

However, there is something to be said for Shakespearean English: It is very witty and funny, and it is difficult to translate that into slang. It might be difficult, but it is not boring. The author of the article recalls a French jazz trio who turned some of Bach's works into modern jazz music, something teachers thought would be helpful to get students interested in Baroque music.

The jazz versions were much more boring than the original and have long been forgotten whereas the original music by Bach is still being played. He believes that Shakespeare's original texts are more modern and long-lasting than the texts in slang. Just give Shakespeare's lines a try, and you might find that they work just fine for you. Hope to hear from you soon.

Cheers

...

### 5 Have a closer look at the modernised quotes in the article. Do you ...?

- LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG** It is probably quite difficult for a grown-up to write teenage slang. The quotes in the text seem a bit weird. He only changed part of the title of *Much Ado About Nothing* (nothing now is "sod all"), but it can be questioned if teenagers today use the term "much ado". The word "ado" is a bit old-fashioned and should have been replaced by a more modern word too.
- The same is true for the last lines of *Romeo and Juliet*, which read "And they all live in peace and harmony", which does not sound like teenage slang, either.
- The overall impression is that the author made up the lines and then threw in a couple of slang words that he thought might fit. The same is true for the German translations. "Weiterkabbeln", "zu Matsch hauen", "seine olle Jule", "die war'n hinüber" are neither teenage slang, nor really modern spoken German.

## Spot on vocabulary

### 1 a) Complete these sentences by ... b) Explain the meaning of the words ...

- LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG** a) 1. dramas, 2. topical, 3. props, 4. humorous, 5. truth

#### b)

- dramedies:** a film or television series that is both serious and humorous. I love watching dramedies – they make me laugh and think.  
**dramatics:** exaggerated behaviour that seems false. Stop your dramatics and talk reasonably to me.
- actual:** real or true. We rehearsed for months, but the actual concert took less than two hours.  
**acute:** serious, severe. He has an acute appendicitis. There is an acute risk of bush fires after the extreme heat.
- prompts:** words said to an actor who has forgotten his lines to help him remember. His mind was blank – not even the prompts helped him recall his line.  
**proms:** a formal dance at a high school (US); a promenade concert (UK). Tom asked her to go to the senior prom with him. The proms are very popular concerts in Britain.
- hysterical:** very agitated, extremely excited. Her hysterical sobs started to get on his nerves.  
**laughable:** silly or ridiculous. The whole situation would be laughable if you did not take it so seriously.
- trust:** confidence, belief in someone. He does not deserve the trust you place in him.  
**true:** correct, right, real. He is a true friend.

### 2 Get together in groups of four. Copy the words below on cards, ...

- LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG** Individual answers expected.

### 3 Use the English equivalents of these German words to complete ...

**LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG** (Solutions in bold face.)

In Shakespeare's time plays **attracted** a large **audience**. They were mostly **performed** in London's permanent theatres, but there were also travelling theatre companies that played in inn yards. This is probably how young Will Shakespeare first **became acquainted with** the theatre. He was an actor before he became a **dramatist (playwright)** and wrote his famous **tragedies** and **comedies**. Maybe he **toured the country** with The Queen's Men, a **theatre company** that visited Stratford when Will Shakespeare was in his early twenties. There are very few **stage directions** in his plays, so the **director** of the play – often an actor himself – had to tell the other actors what **props** to bring on stage or how to act.

### 4 Work with a partner. Write the following words on a card, then ...

**LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG**

- **atmosphere:** feeling, mood, to create an atmosphere, a calm/excited/dark/friendly/relaxed/comfortable/dramatic atmosphere, to change, to be full of atmosphere
- **a villain:** evil, bad, to play tricks on others, to manipulate others, tyrant, dictator, unjust ruler, usurper, murderer, the main bad character, Iago, to cause harm or trouble
- **mood:** temper, feeling, bad-tempered, to be in a good/bad mood, happy/unhappy, moody, to be in the mood for something, mood swings, angry, to set the mood for something
- **a hero:** brave, courageous, to look up to/to admire someone, protagonist, star, heroic actions, a national hero, an icon, lead character, opposite of villain, tragic, strong, intelligent
- **Shakespeare's language:** Elizabethan English, metaphors, images, iambic pentameter, blank verse, prose, idioms, rhythm, poetic, poetry, stressed/unstressed syllables, sonnet
- **Globe theatre:** stage, pit, trap door, gallery, to stand, cheap, large audience, thatched roof, open-air theatre, to play to three sides, popular, bankside, shareholder, theatre company, summer
- **Elizabethan England:** Renaissance, the Golden Age, Elizabeth I, Tudor monarch, stability, spies, executions, bear baiting, violence, traitor, Mary Stuart, censorship, Henry VIII, learning and travelling, discoveries

### 5 Use all of the vocabulary given below to write a paragraph about ...

**LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG**

The Elizabethans loved to be entertained as much as we do today. In a time when neither TV nor computers nor the internet existed, such entertainment could be found in public places rather than in the privacy of your own home. The most popular forms of entertainment were rather cruel: People watched dogs and bears fighting in bear baiting arenas or went to public executions, so they were quite used to violence.

Travelling theatre companies toured the country and performed in inn yards, which later became the models for such amphitheatres as the Theatre or the Globe. Very few indoor playhouses existed; most theatres had an open roof. The admission fees for the theatre were very low, so that almost everybody could see a play every now and then.

Those who were better off could afford a seat in the galleries; however, the bulk of the audience stood in the pit, where they still had a good view of the action. Food vendors circulated through the crowd; people never stood still, so the actors had to work hard to keep the audience's attention. Before a play could be staged, the Master of the Revels had to give his stamp of approval. Censorship in Elizabethan times was strict, and playwrights had to write very carefully to avoid trouble with the government.