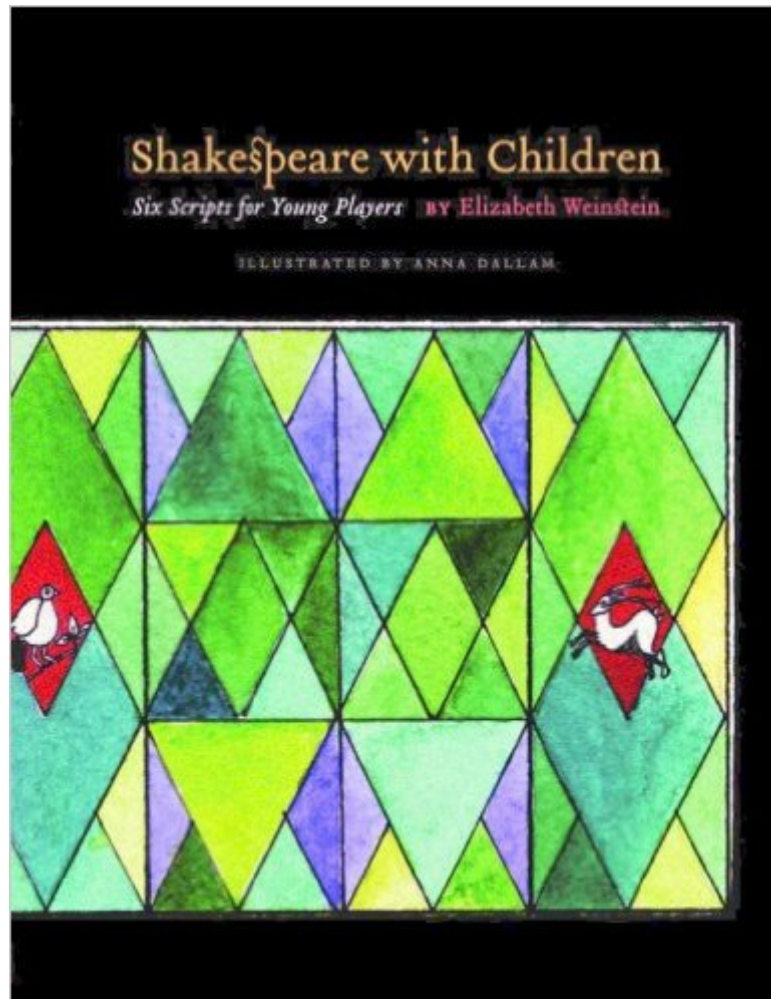


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# Shakespeare With Children: Six Scripts For Young Players



## Synopsis

Does your class or children's group need a jump start in producing thrilling, engrossing, lively theater? Joy, greed, love, fear, and gluttony are just a few of the elements woven into Shakespeare's plays; these timeless topics provide endless fascination for children of any age. In *Shakespeare with Children: Six Scripts for Young Players*, Elizabeth Weinstein retains the beauty of Shakespeare's original language and the sheer fun of acting onstage, while substantially shortening and adapting six plays for children ages eight to thirteen. These forty-minute scripts come with an arsenal of practical suggestions for simple productions. Teachers (and parents) will find ideas for easy back-of-the-closet costume pieces, as well as for sets, props, and music. Historical and literary background is also provided.

**Contents:** Acknowledgments Introduction Why Perform Classroom Plays? *A Midsummer Night's Dream* *Macbeth* *King Henry IV, Part I* *Twelfth Night* *Romeo and Juliet* *The Tempest* Appendix A. About Shakespeare Appendix B. Bibliography Appendix C. Sample Letter Home

Weinstein has created an amazing resource for teachers who want to introduce their own students to the richness and wonder of the Bard. Her beautifully adapted texts are especially well served by the wonderfully useful suggestions for staging and music. Hurray for Shakespeare with Children! --Bruce Coville, Author of *William Shakespeare's Hamlet* (and other Shakespeare picture books), *My Teacher Is an Alien*, *Song of the Wanderer*, and many other books for children.

As a fifth-grade teacher, I am thrilled that I can use this wonderful resource to introduce my students to the beautiful language, marvelous characters, intriguing plots, and fascinating history in Shakespeare's plays. The adaptations in this well-chosen collection lend themselves beautifully to cross-curricular connections among social studies, reading, language arts, music, and art. It is hard to imagine a better way to hook young students on Shakespeare than by having them read and act in these delightful versions of the Bard's work. --Elizabeth Ester, North Shore Country Day School, Winnetka, Illinois

Ms. Weinstein's book is a must for every creative elementary classroom. She gives you all the tools you need to build a beautiful production of six different Shakespearean classics including comedy (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Tempest*), tragedy (*Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*), and history (*King Henry IV, Part I*). The book provides a detailed blueprint that includes a synopsis and ideas for music, props, backdrops, and costumes, as well as a hard-to-find pronunciation key for each character. A great gift for teachers that will benefit their students forever.

--Ronald Bell, Artistic Director, Syracuse

## Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Smith & Kraus (August 15, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1575255731

ISBN-13: 978-1575255736

Product Dimensions: 10.9 x 8.5 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviewsÂ (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #524,575 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #82 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Drama & Theater #4703 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays #128526 inÂ Books > Reference

## Customer Reviews

In Shakespeare with Children: Six Scripts for Young Players, Elizabeth Weinstein has adapted and abridged a half-dozen plays for actors aged 8-13. Each piece can be performed in about 40 minutes and, despite major cuts, all retain the heart of their stories as well as Shakespeare's poetic language. ----Stage DirectionsIt's never too early to introduce children to the greatness that is Shakespeare's theatre. Shakespeare with Children is a must for any drama teacher looking to impart something special. ----MidwestWithout removing important plot elements, she (Weinstein) successfully combines short narrative pieces with heavily edited but genuine Shakespearean language. Most impressive is her adroit cutting of Macbeth, which stays true to the gore of the original. Also remarkable is Weinstein's version of A Midsummer Night's Dream, in which she manages to execute all four of the play's plots without it feeling rushed. ----Backstage

ELIZABETH WEINSTEIN lives in Central New York with her husband and two children. She has a B.A. in English from Carleton College and a Masters in English (Writing Emphasis) from the University of Minnesota. She writes fiction, nonfiction, poetry, advertising copy, and scores of letters. She has personally tested these scripts with teachers and students in her local elementary school.

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