

# PERFORMANCE OPTION 3

## Creating Choral Work Using Themed Pieces

- Materials:** Selected Shakespearean text(s).  
**Grade:** K-12  
**Goal(s):** To explore a topic or theme through many works and words of Shakespeare.

### DESCRIPTION:

This resource is not so much an activity as it is a compass to point you toward other ways of performing Shakespearean text beyond scenes and monologues. One way of developing a performance of Shakespeare for an audience is to work from a theme.

Here are some themes that appear in many of Shakespeare's plays:

Nautical/Ocean/Shipwrecks	Natural Elements/Nature
Love	Battle of the Sexes
Jealousy	Royalty
War/Politics	Magic
Parents	England
Death	God/Spirituality
Friendship	Madness
Water/Fire/Earth	Monsters/Villains

A variety of texts can be collected from different plays and sonnets then weaved together. Such a performance gives both the actors and their audience a unique opportunity to hear how Shakespeare wrote on a subject in different ways.

Once you have identified a theme, an easy way to gather text is by using the *Shakespeare Lexicon* (Alexander Schmidt; Dover Publications; ISBN: 0-486-22726-X and 0-486-22727-8). This two-volume set locates and defines every word that Shakespeare wrote.

### REFERENCE BOOKS:

Here are some other reference books that might be helpful in discovering themes to explore:

- *A Dictionary of Quotations from Shakespeare*; Miner and Rawson; ISBN: 0-452-01127-2
- *Shakespeare Set Free*; Peggy O'Brien; The Folger Library;(this is a series); ISBN: 0-671-76046-7
- *Something Rich and Strange*; Gina Pollinger; Kingfisher; ISBN: 1-85697-597-5



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