

## Shakespeare's Theatre Readers Theatre Script

Developed by Dr. Rosalind M. Flynn with Teachers from Charles County, Maryland

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|-----|---|-----|--|
| 1   | The Globe!  | 3   | That must have made for some wild nights at the theatre!                                 |
| All | The Globe was Shakespeare's own theatre. [gesture]                                  | All | Wrong! [sound effect] No night performances!   |
| 2   | Round.  | 3   | Why not?   |
| 4   | Three-sided.  | 2   | There were no electric stage lights. Actors on-stage were lit only by                    |
| 5   | Open-air.   | All | the sun! [gesture]   |
| 6   | The stage jutted into the audience.   | 4   | Plays at the Globe were action-packed!   |
| 1   | The stage had a gallery.  | 5   | Sword play and buffoonery!   |
| 3   | What is a gallery?  | 6   | But no scenery   |
| All | A gallery is a covered seating area surrounding the stage on three sides. [gesture] | 1   | and very few props.  |
| 3   | Who sat in the gallery?   | 2   | Women were played by men.  |
| All | Audience members who paid a higher price. [gesture]                                 | 4   | Girls were played by boys.   |
| 4   | Frequent London rain drenched theatre-goers. [sound effect]                         | 3   | Well, what if a woman wanted to play a part?   |
| 5   | But not the people in the gallery. They had seats and they stayed dry.              | 5   | Horrors! That would have been a shameless and serious breach of social custom! [gesture] |
| 3   | Then who?   | All | So that's why there are so few women in Shakespeare's productions!                       |
| 6   | Nearly half of the Globe's theatre-goers stood on the ground around the stage.      | 5   | Correct!   |
| All | The "groundlings!" [sound effect]   | All | Boom! [gesture]  |
| 1   | The groundlings [sound effect] were a rowdy bunch,                                  | 6   | went the cannon during a performance of <u>Henry IV</u> .                                |
| 2   | eating, [sound effect] [gesture]  | 1   | A spark!   |
| 4   | talking, [sound effect] [gesture]   | All | Fire! [gesture]  |
| 5   | and yelling during the performance. [gesture] [sound effect]                        | 2   | The Globe burned to the ground in 1613.  |
| 6   | Groundlings made no pretense of courtesy.   | 4   | Alas, the original Globe is no more! [gesture]   |

*From the web site of Dr. Rosalind M. Flynn, Educational Drama Specialist*

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