An angry Duke throws his niece, Rosalind, out of the kingdom where they live. His daughter, Celia, is also Rosalind’s best friend and vows to stand by her side. They go in disguise to live in a new place, the forest of Arden.

In the same kingdom are two brothers, Orlando and Oliver. Oliver was supposed to take care of his younger brother after their father was banished. Unfortunately he doesn’t, and is about to set Orlando’s house on fire, when Orlando’s servant, Ada, warns him. They decide to escape to the forest, too.

Rosalind and Celia, now in disguise as Ganymeed and Aliena, meet a kind shepherd named Corin who helps them figure out how to live in this strange new place. Orlando and Ada have a tougher time of it, and are eager to find food. At this time all four travelers find each other in the woods and discover how to make friends with new people.

Oliver has gone looking for his brother and for the Duke’s daughter. He thought he would bring them back and collect a reward but as he watches the people in the woods taking care of each other, he begins to wish for friends of his own.
Going to see a play is a very different experience from going to the movies. During live theater, the audience is as important a part of the experience as the actors. Here are some tips for young audience members that will help make the experience great.

**Live response is great!** A live performance is like a conversation between the actors and the audience. The more the audience responds (appropriately), the more the actors get excited about telling the story.

**The actors can see and hear you.** If an audience member is not paying attention and chatting with a friend instead, the actors know it. Theater actors have only one chance with each audience to communicate clearly, so it is their job to ‘check in’ with the audience and make sure they’re understanding. If you’re not paying attention, the actors will know it.

**Teachers should lead the way.** Teachers, we are performing for you as well as the students. Sitting among students and experiencing the play with them can help to enhance their experiences as well as your own. Remember, besides learning about Shakespeare, we are trying to educate students, on how to see and enjoy live theater. Please, lead the way, and let us know if you enjoyed the performance, too!
In Shakespeare’s plays, students will hear some unfamiliar words. If you have time, review some of these terms with your students before the play. We will also take time during the performance to define some of these words and phrases.

**Noggin** — a person’s head  
**Haste** — doing something very quickly  
**Beseech** — beg  
**Treason** — betraying one’s country  
**Swashing** — confidently using a sword  
**Tamper** — mess around with, try to damage

*As You Like It, Act II, Scene I, painted by William Hodges Jacques*
**Shakespeare Fun Facts!**

**Did you know...**

**Rosalind** has the most lines of any of Shakespeare's characters?

The name **Rosalind** chooses for her disguise, **Ganymede**, is the name of a boy stolen by Zeus in Greek mythology? (One of Jupiter's moons is also named after this myth)

Shakespeare's mother's maiden name was **Mary Arden**, just like the forest?

**Shakespeare** was born on April 23, 1564 in Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire, about 100 miles northwest of London. April 23, 2014 marked the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth! He died on April 23, 1616.
THE GLOBE THEATRE was built in 1599 by Shakespeare’s playing company in London. It was destroyed by fire on June 29, 1613. A second Globe Theatre was built on the same site by June 1614 and closed in 1642. A modern reconstruction of the Globe, named “Shakespeare’s Globe,” opened in 1997.

THE THEATER THAT SHAKESPEARE’S PLAYS were first performed in was called the Globe Theater. Some people think that when he wrote “All the world’s a stage” he may have been talking about his theater. This famous line comes from As You Like It, the Shakespeare play that “Books in Brooks” is based on.

In Shakespeare’s day they did not make many changes to the set, and with this play, we let the audience imagine the changes, too! We would love to know what you saw.

DRAW BOTH THE KINGDOM that Rosalind and Celia ran away from, AND THE FOREST where all the characters meet up! Think about what happens in each setting, does that help you choose the colors? How can the places of play help to tell the story?

If you do participate in the classroom activity, make sure to share with us on Facebook or send us some mail! WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE WHAT YOUR CLASSROOM’S HAVE CREATED.

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