



Pictures Worth 1,000 Words

We tried this activity with Chicago Shakespeare staff over Zoom as a fun team-builder, and we loved it! You can use this activity as a way to get students up on their feet, work as a team, start their creative juices flowing, and help them engage with a text in a new way!

Here's how it worked for us:

We started in one big Zoom meeting where we were given the instructions. We were randomly assigned to Zoom breakout rooms in groups of 9, and as a group we were tasked with visually recreating one of our past productions—in other words, a visual story. We had just 7 minutes to create our tableau—just long enough to make some quick decisions, race around our homes to gather materials, select a virtual Zoom background, and settle on our poses. Before rejoining the full group, we sent a screenshot of our finished tableau to the Leader. When we were back in the bigger Zoom room, the Leader shared her screen to show each group's screenshots. Seeing other groups' tableaux, we had to guess which plays they represented. We had a lot of laughs and marveled at how the different groups could conjure up these past productions.

Check out some of our tableaux from this activity and try to guess which shows they reference (the answers are at the bottom if you want to check!).



Team Shakespeare Digital



In your classroom, you might try this activity to help students review a full text or just a single scene or chapter. You could assign groups to create different parts of the story, or they can work with the same moment and compare their interpretations. Students may choose to embody characters, objects, actions, or locations. We hope you'll find lots of ways to play with this activity and to modify it to work best with your class and with the virtual classroom tools available to you. Let us know what you create!



One note to consider: screenshots are taken from the perspective of the person taking it, which means that the layout of participants might be different for each person—unless you use Google Meet and download [this Chrome extension](#).

Photo answers:

1. *Peter Pan*
2. *The Wizard of Oz*
3. *Emma*



Shakespeare and the art of theater open exciting, creative paths of learning. One of the largest arts-in-education programs in the country, Team Shakespeare brings Shakespeare's plays to life for middle and high school students. Team Shakespeare's expansive efforts to share Shakespeare with young people aims to empower them as interpreters, widen the scope of their imagination, and offer authentic opportunities to explore the complexities of human nature.



Chicago Shakespeare Theater
800 East Grand Avenue on Navy Pier
Chicago, Illinois 60611

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