



## Shakespeare Says

Shakespeare Says is one of our new favorite community builders, created specifically for our virtual classrooms. Use it to help strengthen student engagement, as a physical energizer, or to kinesthetically review a text you've read. And just maybe an exercise like this can help to draw out those "camera-shy" students through a low-stakes, playful, group experience.

▶ [Click here](#) to watch CST's Education team and a group of teachers from across the country play the activity.

First, choose bits of active language from the text(s) you're reading and accompany each with a physical gesture, a facial expression, or full body action! You or your students can create these "pairings."

A quick couple of times through will start to solidify the pairings. As in Simon Says, the leader calls out the prompts in any order. It works best when there isn't much lag between the prompts—a quick pace will keep everyone on their toes!

In our example, we used lines from a variety of Shakespeare plays, and because we were playing over Zoom, we decided on gestures that used the camera in different ways.

"Exit, pursued by a bear": seeing something off-camera, responding, and exiting in the other direction

"Out damn spot": using proximity and the camera as a prop

"Bottom, thou art translated": finding a new way to exit—down!

"You kiss by the book": playing with proximity and direct address to the camera

"Blow winds": exploring greater distance from the camera

From here, try different ways to make this activity your own. You can create prompts from a single text or keep building your list to incorporate multiple texts you've studied, including non-fiction!



Or you might choose to play in true “Simon Says” fashion with the participants only enacting the gesture if the Leader prefaces the prompt with “Shakespeare Says.”

However you decide to modify the activity, we hope your students have fun engaging with each other—even if virtually from their separate spaces. But don’t forget that you can play this game in person when you’re back in your classroom, too!



Shakespeare and the art of theater open up many and varied paths of learning. Through one of the largest arts-in-education programs in the entire country, Team Shakespeare brings Shakespeare's works to life for middle and high school students. Team Shakespeare is an expansive effort to share Shakespeare with young people and to celebrate the work of this great playwright, who embraced the limitless scope of imagination and the exploration of our complex human nature.

**Marilyn J. Halperin**

Director of Education and Communications  
*Ray and Judy McCaskey Chair*

**Jason Harrington**

Education Outreach Manager

**Maggie Suggett**

Learning Programs Manager

**Sara B.T. Thiel, Ph.D.**

Public Humanities Manager



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

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2019/20 LEAD TEAM SHAKESPEARE PARTNER



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