

1 - THE STORY

What kind of journey does this play take the audience on?

WHAT YOU NEED

- Some pieces of paper, or a notebook and something to write with.
- A computer with internet connection, ready to visit [this page](#) and watch [this clip](#).

ACTIVITY

- Read through the 10 plot points on the Shakespeare Learning Zone [page](#). Write a list of any words that stand out or interest you, even if you don't know what they mean.
- Read the plot points out loud as if you are a news reporter telling the people of Venice. Which words might you have to change to make it sound as if the events are happening live?
- On a piece of paper, write out your news report based on these plot points. Decide which bits of information will be most interesting to your viewers and add any details you can find.
- Practice reading your news bulletin out loud. Which parts sound the most dramatic or emotional?
- Ask yourself: Which bits of the plot are you most interested in already? Which characters do you want to know more about?
- Watch RSC Associate Director Polly Findlay talk through the story of the play for her 2015 RSC production [here](#).

EXTENSION

- Create your own storyboard of the plot for a comic book or graphic novel. You can make this as big or as colourful as you like.
- Start by choosing one plot point and make a list of all the things that happen in it. Divide your paper into squares or panels so that you have one for each thing on your list. Draw a picture within each square until you have your story complete.
- You can do this with as many plot points as you like, even adding lines from the play in speech bubbles or characters thoughts and reactions.