

PMF Creative Challenge #4: 'This Life More Sweet'

INTRODUCTION

In Act Two of *As You Like It*, Shakespeare changes location from the 'Court' to the Forest of Arden. With this change of location comes a change of atmosphere – from the strict authority and restrictions of the court to the rural freedom of the forest. Duke Senior, who has been banished to the forest by his brother (Duke Frederick) describes it as 'this life more sweet' and finds freedom in his exile.

It's the job of the Set Designer to create these two distinct locations, making it clear to the audience where a scene takes place and using the set, props and costume to help the audience understand what that place is like to be in. The Designer take clues from Shakespeare's text as well as ideas from the Director and Actors.

Caitlin Abbott (RSC Assistant Designer) had been working on designs for our Playmaking Festival which was going to take place in the Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon and has shared her moods board with us. A designer's mood boards are a way of visually sharing their thoughts and ideas, evoking the mood and atmosphere they want to create. In Caitlin's mood boards, [available here](#), you can see the differences between the Court and the Forest.

CHALLENGE

This week's challenge focusses on the Forest of Arden and comes in two parts.

- A) Create Your Own Forest of Arden** – gather your houseplants, go into your garden or you may want to draw, paint or build your own forest. Your Arden might be big enough for you to explore yourself, a 3D model, or a 2D image to explore with your imagination. Use whatever you have to hand – real plants, photos, drawings, magazines, internet searches, anything else you have at home or school.

- B) Bring Your Forest to Life** – Take one (or more) of the bits of text below and make a video of your Forest Arden – either film yourself exploring the forest or add a voiceover to still images.

IF YOU WANT TO

If you'd like to go a step further, try learning some of the lines and filming yourself. Then, if you are happy to share it, send your video to us and we may include it in our Playmaking Festival 2020 film.

Please remember when submitting video content¹:

- Schools must have full permissions from parents before sending video to the RSC
- Do not submit material that uses or discloses a student's full name
- Do not film or submit things that might reveal a young person's exact address, school or somewhere they go regularly (e.g. a sports club or activity)
- Do not film anyone else under the age of 18
- Make sure you wear appropriate clothing
- Remember to keep yourselves safe – i.e. do not share content that feels too personal, complicated or sad.

For safeguarding reasons, please can home learners submit any videos to school. The Lead Teacher can then pass on to us and we can confirm permissions for any video used in our final film.

Some video files can be very large so you may need to compress the file or use a platform like WeTransfer or Dropbox.

Send any videos to Playmaking@rsc.org.uk rather than individual members of the team.

Thank you and have fun!

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Samsung and the RSC

Since 2015, Samsung UK and the RSC have worked together closely to inspire a new generation and bring Shakespeare's plays to life through technology. The RSC Playmaking Creative Challenge, powered by Samsung, builds on the success of previous joint initiatives, most recently the award-winning Romeo and Juliet takeover at Welcome Hills School*.

This partnership forms a part of Samsung's commitment to Enabling People by empowering future generations to achieve their full potential through education. Through a number of educational programmes worldwide, Samsung's mission is to create more inclusive, quality learning experiences for young people across society, enabling them to become pioneers of positive social change. To find out more about Samsung's UK initiatives, [please visit their website](#)

*[Welcombe Hills Collaboration](#)

¹ More information can be found in our Online Safeguarding Guidelines

AS YOU LIKE IT (Forest of Arden – edited text scraps)

“There they live like the old Robin Hood of England and fleet the time carelessly, as they did in the golden world.” (1.1)

“Are not these woods
More free from peril than the envious court” (2.1)

“And this our life exempt from public haunt
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones and good in everything.” (2.1)

“Under the greenwood tree
Who loves to lie with me,
And turn his merry note
Unto the sweet bird's throat” (2.5)

“Here shall he see no enemy
But winter and rough weather.” (2.5)