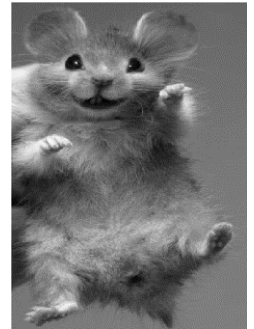


## The Shakespearean Mouse

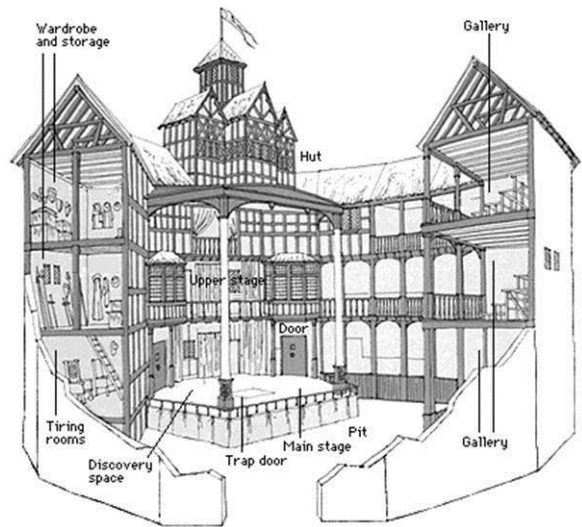


**(1)** Hi! My name is “The Shakespearean Mouse”. That is what the Lord Chamberlain’s Men call me. They are the actors that perform William Shakespeare’s plays at the Globe Theatre in London, England. They are now performing Romeo and Juliet. It is one of William’s best-known plays. They gave me my name because I only come out when William is around. He always bends down and gently feeds me delicious tidbits of cheese. He speaks quietly. I am never nervous when he is in the room.

**(2)** Henry, on the other hand, makes me very nervous. He is always laughing in that hyena voice of his. He also likes to pound his fists on the table. I think he is upset because of the role he was given in the play. He has the role of Juliet. Yup, you heard me right. Henry plays the beautiful lady, complete with makeup and long flowing hair. The year is 1599, and only boys and men are actors. Women are not allowed to perform in plays. It is considered “unfitting” for them to do so. Henry is only 13 years old. His voice is at a perfect pitch to play the role.

**(3)** William’s dream is to write plays that will be enjoyed by both farmers and royalty. So far, I think he is doing a pretty good job. There are many farmers who pay a penny to see a performance in the pit of the Globe Theatre. Royalty has been known to pay a few pennies more for gallery seats. I, however, have dreams of my own.

**(4)** My dream is to meet the one and only, Queen Elizabeth, I. I’ve only seen her from a distance. It was love at first sight. Her red hair, perfect skin, and gentle nature won my heart. I imagine the sweet, springtime smell of roses when she enters the room. I also hear robins singing a cheerful tune in the background. The actors often tease me about this, but William is very supportive. He believes in following dreams and working towards their goal. If I believe, I can achieve, he always says.



**(5)** Henry just ran past me to enter the wardrobe and storage room. He must get ready extra early because of all the makeup he has to wear. I hear him practicing his lines, “Romeo, oh Romeo, Wherefore art thou Romeo?” The first time I heard those lines from the balcony, I thought Juliet was searching the area to find Romeo. William explained to me that “wherefore” doesn’t mean “where”. It actually means “why”. Juliet is asking the question, “Why are you a Montague?” Juliet is a Capulet, and Romeo is a Montague. The Capulets and Montagues are fighting families. Juliet wishes that Romeo wasn’t her enemy, so that they would be free to fall in love.

(6) William keeps looking over at me and smiling. I know that smile. He has something secret in mind. He gently taps his upper right-hand pocket. This is a sign for me to jump in for a ride. I jump right in, and he immediately begins climbing the stairs to the gallery at the top of the Globe. We arrive just in time for my lady to make her entrance.

(7) Queen Elizabeth I strolled in wearing a beautiful black dress with white trim, swinging a pomander at her side. The pomander was the source of the beautiful smell that filled the air. It was the smell of warm apples, hot out of the oven. Wealthy women often carry pomanders as a relief against bad smells. They also ward off sickness and disease. She placed it securely under her chair, and sat down quietly with a smile on her face.

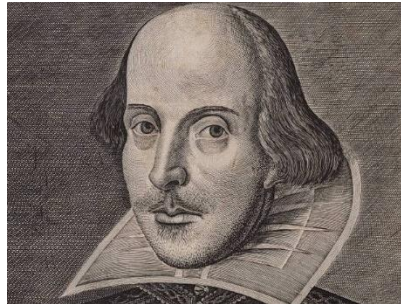
(8) William and Elizabeth greeted each other, and finally I was introduced. Elizabeth said she was delighted to meet me, as I made a gentlemanly bow. She laughed at me, but not in the sarcastic way Henry often did. She had joy, and even a little respect in her voice. The show was about to begin, so everyone gave their full attention to the performance.

Before the night was through, I sneaked into the pomander under her chair. I snuggled up in the base with the hope of being undetected.

(9) It was very late when we arrived in the Greenwich Palace. Elizabeth made her excuses and immediately went to her bedroom. If I thought the Globe Theatre was big, the Palace of Placentia was huge! Now I have a new goal, which is to date the Queen of England. Hey, if Romeo and Juliet found happiness, why can't I? If I believe I can achieve, right?



### The Shakespearean Mouse



#### 1. Part A – How does the Shakespearean Mouse feel about Henry?)

- A. He admires him.
- B. He feels intimidated by him.
- C. He hates him.
- D. He feels superior to him.

#### 2. Part B – Identity the TWO sentences that BEST show the feeling in Part A.

Henry, on the other hand, makes me very nervous. \_\_\_\_\_ He is always laughing in that hyena voice of his. \_\_\_\_\_ He also likes to pound his fists on the table. \_\_\_\_\_ I think he is upset because of the role he was given in the play. He has the role of Juliet. Yup, you heard me right. \_\_\_\_\_ Henry plays the beautiful lady, complete with makeup and long flowing hair. The year is 1599, and only boys and men are actors. Women are not allowed to perform in plays. It is considered “unfitting” for them to do so. \_\_\_\_\_ Henry is only 13 years old. His voice is at a perfect pitch to play the role.

**3. Which is the dream of the Shakespearean mouse?**

- A. to play the role of Romeo
- B. to hear robins singing a song
- C. to go to Greenwich Palace
- D. to meet Queen Elizabeth

**4. What is the purpose of a “pomander”?**

- A. to make the air smell better
- B. to make a person look better
- C. to help a person hear better
- D. to help a stairway look better

**5. Select the TWO statements from the narrative that BEST reveal Queen Elizabeth’s character.**

William and Elizabeth greeted each other, and finally I was introduced.

Elizabeth said she was delighted to meet me, as I made a gentlemanly bow.

She had joy, and even a little respect in her voice.

Elizabeth made her excuses and immediately went to her bedroom.

Now I have a new goal, which is to date the Queen of England.

**6. Select the theme of the passage.**

- A. Be careful what you wish for.
- B. A mouse meets a queen.
- C. Never give up on your dreams.
- D. Realize your limitations.

**7. Select the genre of the passage.**

- A. non-fiction
- B. historical fiction
- C. science fiction
- D. realistic fiction

**8. Why do you suppose the author decided to include the illustration in Paragraph 3?**

- A. so readers could visualize Queen Elizabeth’s home
- B. so readers could imagine the wealth of Shakespeare
- C. so readers could visualize the farmers in the pit and the royalty in the gallery
- D. so readers could imagine where Henry went to practice for the play

**9. Read this sentence from Paragraph 5:**

*I hear him practicing his lines, "Romeo, oh Romeo, Wherefore art thou Romeo?"*

**Based on information from Paragraph 5, what is Juliet asking Romeo?**

- A. Where are you hiding?
- B. Why are you my enemy?
- C. When will I see you again?
- D. Who named you Romeo?

**10. Place the following events in the correct order (First to Last; 1-5)**

           The Shakespearean Mouse went to Queen Elizabeth's house.

           Henry entered the wardrobe and storage room.

           The Shakespearean Mouse hid in the pomander.

           The Shakespearean Mouse made a new goal.

           The Shakespearean Mouse met Queen Elizabeth.