

# FLIBBERTIGIBBETY Words

## Activity Guide

With quotes and sly references to the famous works of William Shakespeare and the words he invented, this adventurous ode to language will delight readers young and old.

It all starts one morning when words fly into William's window. He wants to catch them, but they are flibbertigibbety and quick and slip right through his fingers. Soon whole lines of verse are leading him on a wild goose chase as they tumble, dip, flip and skip all through town, past a host of colorful characters the observant reader may find as familiar as the quotes. William remains persistent, and with time and the proper tools he finds a way to keep the words with him.

★ "A comic introduction to the plays and words of Shakespeare that's lighthearted and sure to please . . . This cheeky, kid-friendly tale is full of creativity and humor and will work for many age groups on many levels—and it answers the age-old question of where authors find ideas (and words)." —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

"An energetic story, driven by merry phrasing, will introduce the playwright and some of his famous quotes to younger readers and encourage budding wordsmiths." —*School Library Journal*

**Donna Guthrie** is a writer, documentary filmmaker, playwright, and lecturer whose many books for children include *I Can't Believe It's History!*, *Putting on a Play*, and *Mrs. Gigglesbelly Is Coming for Tea*. She graduated from Vermont College with an MFA in Children's and Young Adult Writing. When she's not attending Shakespeare Festivals all over the western US, she lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

**Åsa Gilland** is a Swedish illustrator living in Jakarta, Indonesia, who produces art for textiles, stationery, home décor and the gift market. She studied interior design at Accademia Italiana Moda and has been designing and illustrating for 20 years. She visited Stratford-upon-Avon as a child and has poured her obsession with Shakespearean history into her first picture book.

One morning, Young William Shakespeare opens the window, and words fly in. But when he tries to catch them, they slip right through his fingers! Leading him on a wild goose chase, the words skip the bacon of a lady in courtship, flip past an old king with his rose-cheeked daughters, and dip into a boiling pot stirred by three old women, where the words bubble, bubble—they are too much trouble! Will he capture the words before they disappear for good?

## Looking Carefully

- The illustrator Åsa Gilland is very good at drawing expressions for each of her characters. Identify five different facial expressions in the story.
- Before the peddler gives Will the pen and ink, what is his expression? When the words come through the window again, what do you think Young Will is feeling? What is Will's expression on the last page of the book? What do you think he is feeling. Identify five different facial expressions in the story. Write about an incident when you felt the same way.
- While Young Will follows the flibbertigibbety words through the town, and the townspeople are busy at work. Compare these jobs to what you would see people doing today. Illustrate a busy street in your city.
- In the picture of the three witches, what is in the mysterious brew besides the words? Evaluate the items hanging on the branch. Choose the one you would take and explain why.
- Ms. Gilland leaves hints for the end of the story with her illustrations. Check out the peddler's cart with paper, pen, and pretty ribbons. Design a cart with items that will help Will capture those flibbertigibbety words.



William Shakespeare was a playwright and a poet who lived over 450 years, but his plays, poems, and words are still with us today.



1. Why do you think William Shakespeare is still important today? Explain your answer.
2. What does the word flibbertigibbety mean? Use the word flibbertigibbety in a sentence.
3. The world is filled with inspiring people. Who inspires you, and why?
4. Shakespeare made up many words that we use every day. Write a paragraph using all of these words:

Downstairs  
Humble

Madcap  
Embrace

Generous

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# Let's Talk About It

During his lifetime, William Shakespeare wrote around 37 plays for the theatre and over 150 poems! Shakespeare influenced the English language by popularizing and inventing many words and phrases.

Here are nine phrases we owe to Shakespeare. What do they mean?

- *"All that glitters isn't gold."*  
We usually use this phrase after discovering that something that looks good turns out not to be that great.
- *"Break the ice"*  
Often, when you meet someone for the first time, you "break the ice" by asking thoughtful questions about themselves.
- *"Clothes make the man."*  
Although not always true, this phrase implies that how a person dresses tells you something about who they are.
- *"Come what come may."*  
Whatever is going to happen is going to happen. You are accepting that fact.
- *"A laughing stock"*  
To be a laughing stock is considered a joke by many people.
- *"In a pickle."*  
To be "in a pickle" is trouble or a situation that you cannot get out of quickly.
- *"Too much of a good thing."*  
It is said that "too much of a good thing" is not necessarily good for you.
- *"Wild-geese chase"*  
When someone leads you on a wild chase to find them, it is commonly known as a wild-geese chase.
- *"What's done is done"*  
It is done, and there is no going back. You must simply deal with the consequences.

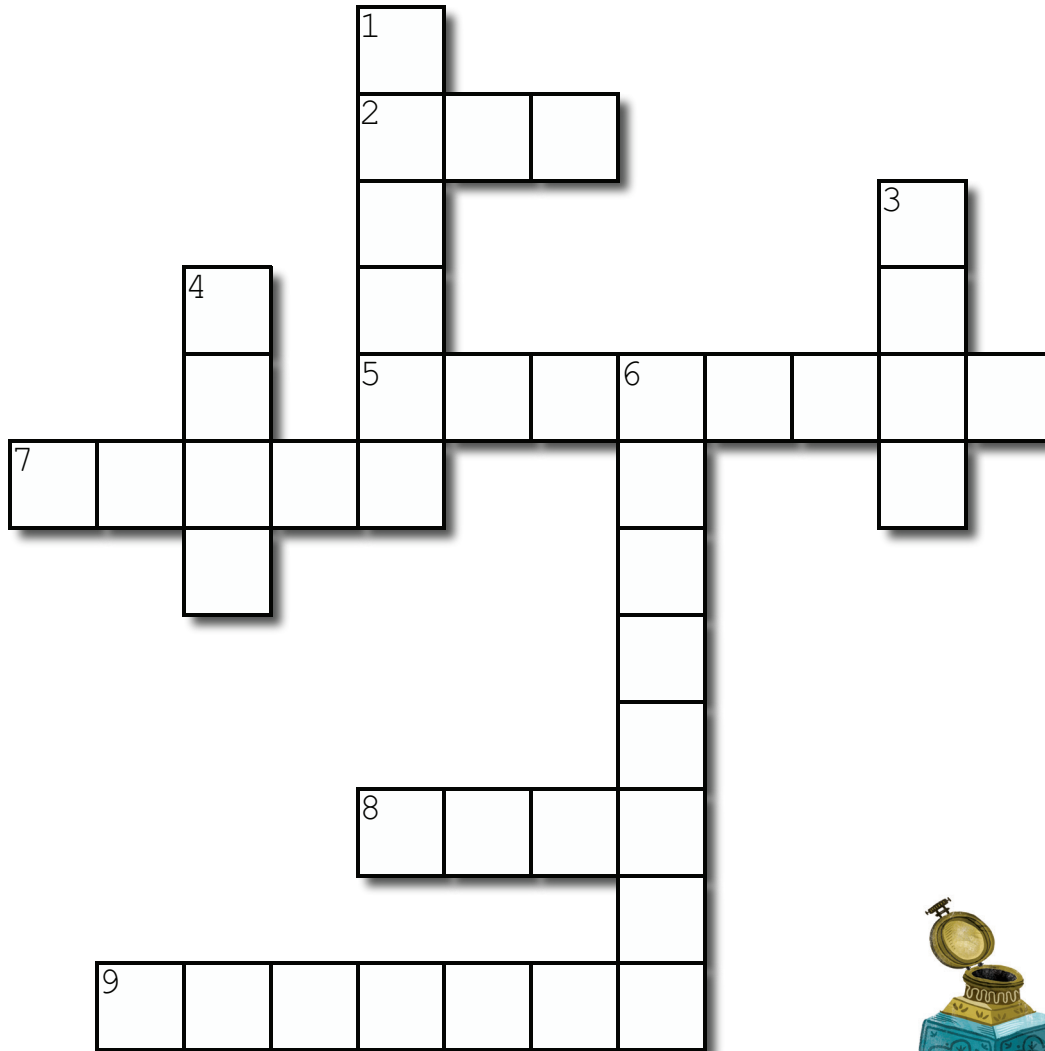
Shakespeare's plays were immediately big hits! He wrote different kinds of plays, tragedies, and comedies. A tragedy play is a serious play with a sad ending. A comedy is a funny play with a happy ending. Tragedy and Comedy are often represented with these two masks.



Draw your tragedy and comedy masks.

# Flibbertigibbety Crossword Puzzle

Complete the crossword puzzle below!



## Across

2. Break the \_\_\_\_\_
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ stock
7. Wild \_\_\_\_\_ chase
8. \_\_\_\_\_ what may
9. \_\_\_\_\_ make the man

## Down

1. In a \_\_\_\_\_
3. What's \_\_\_\_\_ is done
4. Too much of a \_\_\_\_\_ thing
6. All that \_\_\_\_\_ is not gold

# Flibbertigibbety Word Search

Find the words hidden in the puzzle.

I	Y	O	C	X	O	B	Y	Z	L	Y	H	I	N	T	M	O	V
P	R	Q	F	I	A	J	L	N	E	R	V	S	Z	A	N	Y	M
Y	R	Y	A	I	L	D	K	U	A	R	G	C	Z	S	P	F	W
G	I	L	Y	U	R	O	S	C	K	W	Y	H	G	U	S	T	G
N	L	E	A	X	W	G	N	A	Y	A	J	O	N	J	K	Y	R
H	H	A	N	C	W	V	L	E	N	J	F	O	U	N	L	G	S
O	J	P	Y	O	X	P	H	O	L	T	M	L	Z	X	D	Q	F
D	P	T	J	U	M	B	L	E	O	Y	Z	B	G	P	D	C	R
C	O	P	V	X	K	M	V	R	X	M	Z	O	W	H	U	Y	E
C	H	S	X	R	Y	M	A	N	Z	M	Y	Y	J	H	E	T	J
I	N	E	F	H	T	S	S	K	P	V	B	G	E	J	N	Q	Z
F	Z	A	N	Y	K	U	X	I	M	K	V	O	Z	J	B	P	M

GLOOMY

GUST

HINT

JUMBLE

LEAKY

LEAPT

LONELY

SCHOOLBOY

ZANY



Young Will chased those flibbertigibbety words all around  
Stratford on Avon. Find a good way home for him.

