List five facts about Shakespeare—use books/the internet to help you:

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 

Name five of Shakespeare’s plays:

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5.
Shakespeare’s language nowadays

Shakespeare is the first person to use the following common phrases. In your own words, what do they mean?

“The game is afoot” means

“The be-all and the end-all” means

“Break the ice” means

“Dead as a doornail” means

“Eaten me out of house and home” means

“Heart of gold” means

“In my heart of hearts” means

“One fell swoop” means

“Set my teeth on edge” means

“Wear my heart upon my sleeve” means

“Wild-goose chase” means
Witches and witchcraft

In Shakespeare’s time people believed in witches. They were people who had made a pact with the Devil in exchange for supernatural powers. If your cow was ill, it was easy to decide it had been cursed. If there was plague in your village, it was because of a witch. If the beans didn’t grow, it was because of a witch. Witches might have a familiar – a pet, or a toad, or a bird – which was supposed to be a demon advisor. People accused of being witches tended to be old, poor, single women. It is at this time that the idea of witches riding around on broomsticks (a common household implement in Elizabethan England) becomes popular.

There are lots of ways to test for a witch. A common way was to use a ducking stool, or just to tie them up, and duck the accused under water in a pond or river. If she floated, she was a witch. If she didn’t, she was innocent. She probably drowned. Anyone who floated was then burnt at the stake. It was legal to kill witches because of the Witchcraft Act passed in 1563, which set out steps to take against witches who used spirits to kill people.

King James I became king in 1603. He was particularly superstitious about witches and even wrote a book on the subject. Shakespeare wrote *Macbeth* especially to appeal to James – it has witches and is set in Scotland, where he was already king. The three witches in *Macbeth* manipulate the characters into disaster, and cast spells to destroy lives.

**Summarise the text above. Don’t write it all back out – try to identify the key information the writer wants to get across, and condense it into smaller chunks.**
Creative writing

In the space below, draw the scariest, ugliest witch you can imagine.

Write a description of your witch. Try to use adjectives and adverbs to add detail.
Creative Writing – Write the beginning of a story where some witches play a wicked trick on somebody.
You need to learn the meaning and spelling of the following ten words.

1) Shakespeare
2) Macbeth
3) Premonition
4) Ambition
5) Regicide
6) Manipulation
7) Revenge
8) Tragedy
9) Drama
10) Stage

Use each word in a sentence in the space below, proving you know what it means.

1) 
2) 
3) 
4) 
5) 
6) 
7) 
8) 
9) 
10)
Extra reading: your homework expectation is to read for twenty minutes a night, every night. Why not try some of the following?
Whether you read your AR book from the school library, or a book from home, you could try to complete some of the following activities.

The idea is that they are a little more creative, and allow you to respond to what you’ve read without having to write an essay or an analysis.

- Design a costume for one of the characters. Annotate it, explaining your choices.
- Design a cover for the book you’ve just read. You could write a blurb for the back.
- Books in a hurry: sum your book up in as few words as possible! Feel free to illustrate your key chosen points.
- Imagine you are one of the main characters. Create your social media profile.
- Lonely hearts ad: imagine one of the characters in your book is looking for love. Write an advert they place in a newspaper, promoting themselves and explaining what they want from a partner.
A note to parents and carers,

The most important reason to read is because it’s enjoyable – we would like your child to view reading as a luxury and not a chore. Children who read for pleasure in their spare time perform significantly better at school than other pupils. The most important thing you can do for your child is to read with them, or at least to insist that they read themselves.

Ideally, they should read every single day – little and often is the way forward!

Your child’s homework for English is to complete this booklet, to the best of their ability, and to read as much as they can and as often as they can. They should always have a book from the school library, but obviously they can read their own books from home should they wish to do so. They can quiz on the books they read once they return to school.

To support us in helping your child, we ask that you complete the following log at the end of every week so that their English teacher can monitor how often they’re reading at home.

Thank you,

Mr Wootton
Head of English

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