

How to play

In this game Nicholas gets some coaching from fellow boy player Alexander Cooke. Alexander coaches Nicholas in verse reading, encouraging him to read the verse with respect for the rhythms that Shakespeare created. The game uses extracts from *Macbeth* to explore verse rhythm. Pupils move from simple lines of rhythmic iambic verse to more complex examples. Discuss as a class which syllables should be stressed and click to highlight them. If you need a clue listen to an actor reading the verse line slightly stressed. It is thought that Shakespeare's actors stressed the rhythm of the verse more than is fashionable in modern acting styles.

When your class is happy with their choice of stressed syllables click and see if the 'Karaoke' rhythm counter thinks your choice is correct.

Suggestions for use

To complete this exercise pupils will need to have some understanding of iambic pentameter and to know that Shakespeare sometimes varies his verse rhythms for effect rather than sticking rigidly to a single style.

With this knowledge pupils can help Nicholas to speak the lines as Shakespeare intended them, with the correct stress on particular words.

It is possible to do this exercise as a whole class experience with smaller classes. However larger classes may like to use this as a group exercise. In this case use the handouts with the extracts to ask pairs or small groups to decide which of the syllables should be stressed. Once you have decided, enter your choice into the game and see how you did.

You may choose to use the handouts which show the lines in their context.

