Fun ways to memorise Shakespearean quotations

GCSE exam mark schemes refer to *references* rather than *quotations* so don’t feel the need to memorise vast chunks of the text. However, learning some short phrases and lines by heart can enrich your experience of the play (and therefore your exam essay!).

To help stick those words into your brain, choose from the following activities.

- Pick six of your favourite phrases or lines from the play - record them on your mobile phone. Experiment with different tones and voices until you’re happy.

- Pick six quotations that make you laugh - memorise them and share them with a friend.

- Pick one quotation from each act (the quotation should represent that act) and then memorise them in order. Share the five quotes with a friend or member of your family and allow them to ask you questions about the play.

- Work with a partner. Pick ten short quotations that summarise the most important events in the play and help each other memorise them. Take it in turns to tell the story in your own words and then recite the quotation in the correct place.

- Make finger puppets for the main characters. Pick a quotation for each puppet and recite them while working the puppet.

- Listen to an audio version of one scene. At the end of the recording, write down four individual words or phrases that you remember. Use a copy of the text to check your accuracy.

- Make a collage of images with eight quotations inside relevant images. Display this somewhere at home and look at it regularly. Ask someone to use the collage to test your memory of the quotations.

- Find a selection of coloured paper/card and create a rainbow of quotations - one on each colour.

- Pick a cluster of quotations that have a language feature in common (for example six quotations using light/dark imagery). Use these quotations as the dialogue in an abstract improvised scene.

- Use your Twitter account and tweet a different quotation every day. Follow others doing the same and retweet their quotations.

- Create a display in a classroom or corridor with key quotations - make sure they can be seen from a distance. Every time you see or pass the board, recite the quotation.

- Find four quotations with interesting or unusual language and turn them into a short poem.

- Pick three key quotations and teach them to a friend or member of your family. Test them the next day to see if they’ve remembered.