



DELVING DEEPER

As you delve deeper into your chosen play, it might be helpful to look at it as an iceberg. There is a lot of information that is hiding underneath the play's synopsis - information that will help inform your piece for Shake Fest! We have some questions in this worksheet to assist you in building a full understanding of the play, splitting this information into the following areas:

1. The play's synopsis	An illustration of an iceberg floating in blue water. The tip of the iceberg is above the water line, while the much larger base is submerged below the water line. The water is a gradient of blue, and the sky above is a lighter blue.
2. Characters and relationships	
3. Themes	
4. Context	
5. What matters to your category	

While delving deeper into your chosen play, resources you can use are...

The Play - ideally, you will read the entire play. This is the most helpful step on your journey and will give you a wealth of information. If you find this difficult it might help to read it out loud or read it with a translation on the side. Do not underestimate the power of properly reading the play.

Spark Notes - this is a great place to start if you are looking to get a general understanding of the play - there is nothing wrong with starting here or going here if you get stuck reading the play. They can give you a scene by scene synopsis of the work.

YouTube videos - there are countless youtube videos breaking down characters, scenes and more in the play. This is a great resource to broaden your knowledge on the themes, plot points and mirrors to real life. Use caution: Watching entire scenes or monologues can be great, but you risk falling into the trap of copying them entirely - *we want to see your interpretation of the play, not someone else's.*

1. THE PLAY'S SYNOPSIS.

Now that you have done some research, answer these integral questions to test yourself:

- **What is each character's journey? (especially yours that you might be focusing on)**
- **What are the main plot points?**
- **What characters rise and fall?**

2. CHARACTERS AND RELATIONSHIPS.

With characters and relationships, you might want to draw out a family tree. You can also research whether characters are based on real people. Other questions might be:

- **What does your focus character say about others?**
- **What do others say about them?**

3. THEMES.

While looking at Themes, Spark notes can be a very useful tool. Here are other points to keep in mind while understanding your plays themes:

- **What themes are in the play?**
- **What do these themes mean now? Are they relevant?**
- **How were these themes incorporated into the play?**

4. CONTEXT.

You will have multiple points of context that you can research and understand such as:

- **Social context (Then and now)**
- **Plays settings (when, where)**
- **What was the purpose of the play/ why was it written?**
- **What are some popular adaptations? What worked? Didn't work?**

5. WHAT MATTERS TO YOUR CATEGORY?

Here are further details to investigate that link directly to your chosen category:

MONOLOGUE:

- **The moment(s) before that affect your character.**
- **What is your character's motive?**
- **How does your character affect, and want to affect, other characters?**

DUOLOGUE:

- **The moment(s) before that affect your character(s).**
- **What is your character's motive?**
- **How does your character affect, and want to affect, the other character?**

DANCE:

- **What emotions are being used in the scene(s) or for specific characters?**
- **What Social hierarchy is in place?**
- **What is affecting the character(s)? What theme is affecting characters?**

MUSIC:

- **What emotions are in the scene(s), or for specific characters?**
- **How do themes affect your chosen character(s) or the entire play?**
- **Is there any music in the play? Should there be? What style is it?**

COSTUME DESIGN:

- **What settings are in the play?**
- **What social hierarchy is in place?**
- **What cultural significance is in the play? What cultural significance could be in the play?**

PHOTOGRAPHY:

- **What are some themes that relate directly to a person, persons or theme?**
- **What is the overlying mood of the play/ scene/ character?**
- **Identify various important symbols throughout the play.**

FILM:

- **What settings are in the play?**
- **Who is the desired focus of the play? For a renaissance audience? For a modern audience? For your desired audience?**
- **Identify various important symbols throughout the play.**

Hopefully by answering these questions you will be well on your way to having an in-depth understanding of your play – take a moment to re-read the section of the play you will be using for your piece, and see if you notice a difference to what you see in this piece now. This information will help you when it comes to our next unit - trial and error - as you discover many options for delivering your piece.