CRITICAL WRITING

HOW TO REVIEW A SHAKESPEARE PLAY AT THE GLOBE

HEADING
- Write the title of the production and state that it was written by William Shakespeare.
- Say that you saw it at Shakespeare’s Globe and record the date you saw it.
- Put your name

SETTING THE SCENE (CONTEXT)
- Give a description of The Globe, assuming that the reader has never seen it. (Describe how it feels to arrive, as well as what the building looks like.)
- Maybe add a brief history of The Globe (its origins or its reconstruction).
- Mention the type of play (e.g. Comedy, History, Tragedy). You may choose to add when the play was written or published.
- Describe the theme(s) of the play – its main subjects or message.

NARRATIVE AND CHARACTER
- Write a brief summary of the plot.
- Outline the main characters. You can put the actors' names in brackets after the characters they played, or mention their names as you evaluate the acting, e.g. 'Romeo was movingly portrayed by John Smith...'
- Try to show how the characters behaved in the context of the plot, scene or other characters. For instance, 'At the end of the scene, John Smith, who played Romeo, heightened the sense of sadness by his use of long silences as he tore himself away....'

ACTING SKILLS/STYLES
- If the piece was supposed to be 'naturalistic', say if you thought the actors were convincing.
- Show how their voices or movements affected the way that they performed the text.
- Mention any outstanding performances (good or bad), giving examples and details.

TECHNICAL EVALUATION (ATMOSPHERE)
- Describe how you were welcomed in to the theatre.
- Describe what you actually saw on stage:
• the set
• the costumes
• the music.

• Say if the lighting, costumes or sound added something to the performance (or if they distracted from it).
• Live music always plays an important part in Globe productions. How was it done and how were the musicians used?

DIRECTORIAL EVALUATION
• The Globe stage is very distinctive. Was the way the actors used it innovative or traditional? Explain how.
• Do you think the director's interpretation was true to what Shakespeare intended? Would it have been performed like this when it was written? What might be different now?

PERSONAL THOUGHTS
• How did you feel at the end?
• What are your lasting impressions?