Welcome...

I am Elizabeth Vernon, Countess of Southampton.

Let me take you on a journey to explore the world of William Shakespeare.

William Shakespeare is one of the world’s greatest writers. He was born in 1564 and like me grew up in Tudor England in the time of Queen Elizabeth I. He wrote plays for the theatre and he also wrote poetry some which he dedicated to my husband Henry Wriothesley, 3rd Earl of Southampton.

Each stop in the trail begins with a line from one of Shakespeare’s plays or sonnets. Try and act each one out as you explore the trail.

A Shakespeare trail

As You Like It

THEREBY HANGS A TALE
In Gallery 32, find the portrait of Henry Percy, 9th Earl of Northumberland by Nicholas Hilliard. He is lying in a wood with a book beside him, but his mind seems to be elsewhere. Is he dreaming about someone he loves? Draw what you think he is dreaming about.

“All days are nights to see till I see thee, And nights bright days when dreams do show thee me” (Sonnet 43)

Go to the middle of the Greece & Rome gallery (21) and find the sculpture of the head of Julius Caesar.

Shakespeare wrote a play about this Roman Emperor and his assassination.

Look at the sculpture and circle the words you think describe him best.

“This was the noblest Roman of them all” — Julius Caesar

Find the painting of The Twins, Kate and Grace Hoare by John Everett Millais. Record the differences you can find between them.

What can you tell about each girl’s personality from this painting?

“It is thyself, mine own self’s better part” — Comedy of Errors

Design the handle and hilt of the dagger that could be used for such a terrible deed.

Richard III was a real king and died in 1485 in the battle of Bosworth Field.

The character Macbeth plans to murder Scottish King Duncan. These terrible thoughts make him imagine he can see a dagger floating in front of him ready to use. Find a case full of daggers. Go to case 6 at the far right of the gallery.

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