



NAME:

Lori Brown

ROLE:

Language and
Literature Teacher

INSTITUTION NAME

Pierrefonds Community
High School

LOCATION

Quebec, Canada

“ I was pleased to see how many of my reluctant students had positive things to say about the productions. Many of these students had not gone to a live show before ”

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO DIGITAL THEATRE+?

I loved the idea that my students could experience live theatre at their fingertips. There are so many options for them to watch when it comes to performances, as well as interviews and analysis. When studying a play, the students can experience different perspectives by viewing several different performances.

HOW DO YOU USE DIGITAL THEATRE+?

I assign productions as companion pieces to literature we are reading in class, and I project scenes of plays to help support students' understanding of a scene. Sometimes I have the students take two different performances and infer differences based on the perspective or setting of the play.

The interviews with the actors of the plays are of particular interest as they help provide character motivation as well as an understanding of dramatic purpose. As an ELA teacher, characterization is particularly important. Since there is no narration, a reader experiences less than when experiencing the play live or recorded. Digital Theatre+ allows students to analyze performances to better understand the characters.

WHICH RESOURCES DO YOU FIND MOST VALUABLE?

The Practice and Practitioners section is particularly useful to gain understanding of character motivation and understand how a play goes from page to stage. I absolutely love the At Home with Shakespeare series as it provides an exemplar analysis of two differing scenes by an expert. This allows the students to see and understand how a comparative analysis can be done and will lead to them being better prepared for their own analysis. Another series that I have used in class is Shakespeare Uncovered. This series is very valuable to the ELA teacher because it provides analysis on specific Shakespeare plays.

The productions themselves are wonderful and varied. There is room for teachers to view experimental theatre such as *The Container*, musicals (I absolutely adore the *Into the Woods* production – the set is extraordinary), and the entire of Shakespeare's canon. Finally, the graphic novels that accompany most of the Shakespeare plays are interesting and provide support and interest for students as they experience his plays.

HOW HAS DIGITAL THEATRE+ HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT IN YOUR CLASSROOM?

I was pleased to see how many of my reluctant students had positive things to say about viewing the productions. Many of these students had not gone to a live show before. My students are more likely to engage with the text when given tools to interact with.

WHAT MAKES DIGITAL THEATRE+ PARTICULARLY VALUABLE FOR TEACHING ELA?

I find the resource valuable because of the sheer variety of high quality theatre resources and the ability to explore the making of these productions. The most valuable thing about Digital Theatre+ is that there are so many resources that provide insight to character and theme and motivation.