Delve Deeper into "The Hobart Shakespeareans"
A film by Mel Stuart

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Mary Cella of the St Charles Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "The Hobart Shakespeareans" that premieres on September 6th, 2005 at 10 p.m. on PBS (check local listings at www.pbs.org/pov/).

Teacher Rafe Esquith has a point of view — a very strong one — about educating children of immigrants. Teaching in Los Angeles at one of the nation's largest inner-city grade schools, Hobart Elementary, Esquith leads his class of fifth graders through an uncompromising curriculum of English, mathematics, geography and literature. He inspires them with cross-country trips to learn history first-hand. And at the end of the semester, every student performs in a full-length Shakespeare play: in this case "Hamlet", with advice from actors Ian McKellen and Michael York.

Despite language barriers and poverty, these Hobart Shakespeareans move on to attend outstanding colleges, motivated by a teacher honored with a National Medal of Arts. A co-presentation with Thirteen/WNET New York.

ADULT NONFICTION

Anyon, Jean & William. Ghetto Schooling: A Political Economy of Urban Education Reform. New York: Teachers College Press, 1997. Anyon argues that the problems of urban education are not due to the schools, but rather to the poverty, racial isolation and lack of political power in America's inner cities.


Cashin, Sheryll. The Failures of Integration: How Race and Class Are Undermining the American Dream. New York: Public Affairs, 2004. Cashin asserts that our housing (and thus our schools) are still segregated by class and race. Because segregation is now prohibited by law, the situation appears to be a "normal" one. Cashin contends that it is a result of government and social policies and presents strategies for reversing this state of affairs.


Dyson, Anne Haas. Social Worlds of Children Learning to Write in an Urban Primary School. New York: Teachers College Press, 1993. Dyson aims to provide elementary and early childhood professionals with a better understanding of the social work of childhood and how students use varied kinds of language art forms and traditions—oral and
written—as they participate in school.


Fallon, Robert Thomas. *A Theatergoer’s Guide to Shakespeare’s Characters*. Chicago, IL: Ivan R. Dee, 2004. Many people are puzzled on their first encounter with Shakespeare, because of his language and allusions to the Elizabethan era. To solve this problem, Fallon examines the most frequently staged plays scene by scene, and those less frequently performed act by act, providing an in-depth resource for theatergoers.


Garcia, Alma M. (Ed.). *Race and Ethnicity*. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, 2001. This collection of articles deals with the issues of race and ethnicity, including how gender and class perspectives are intertwined with race and ethnicity.


Glickman, Carl. *Letters to the Next President: What We Can Do About the Real Crisis in Public Education*. New York: Teachers College Press, 2004. This collection of more than 30 letters to our next president from students, parents and teachers addresses the dangerous shortcomings of current state and federal policies in public education.


Hochschild, Jennifer L. *The American Dream and the Public Schools*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003. Examines the issues of public schools that have divided Americans for years, including desegregation, school funding, testing, vouchers, bilingual education, and ability grouping.

Husock, Howard. *America’s Trillion-Dollar Housing Mistake: the Failure of American Housing Policy*. Chicago, IL: Ivan R. Dee, 2003. Husock explains how, as with so many anti-poverty efforts, low-income housing programs have harmed those they were meant to help while causing grave collateral damage to cities and their citizens.


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argues that children, predominantly minorities, from poor families are cheated out of a future by under-equipped, understaffed and under-funded schools in U.S. inner cities and less affluent suburbs.


Lantieri, Linda and Janet Patti. Waging Peace in Our Schools. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1996. Lantieri and Patti offer a guide on how schools can educate the heart as well as the mind, drawing on the latest research in social and emotional learning, as well as their years of experience with thousands of kids and teachers.

LoMonico, Michael. The Shakespeare Book of Lists: the Ultimate Guide to the Bard, His Plays, and How They’ve Been Interpreted and (Mis)interpreted Through the Ages. Franklin Lakes, NJ: New Page Books, 2001. Catalogs Shakespeare’s life, his use of language, the best and most insulting lines from his plays and poems, the actors who have performed his plays, and the theaters where they have been performed.


McDonald, Russ. The Bedford Companion to Shakespeare: an Introduction with Documents. Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2001. This guide provides a combination of up-to-date background information and selections from primary documents to introduce readers to the topics most important to the study of Shakespeare in their full historical and cultural context.

Ness, Molly. Lessons to Learn: Voices from the Front Lines of Teach for America. New York: Falmer Press, 2003. Tells the story of the more than 8,000 recent college graduates who have joined Teach for America and committed two years of service to teaching in the nation’s most troubled public schools.


Noguero, Pedro. City Schools and the American Dream: Reclaiming the Promise of Public Education. New York: Teachers College Press, 2003. Noguero maps out his vision of hope for educators working in urban public schools that are under-resourced and over-burdened, providing an analysis of how social forces undermine the quality of urban schools and the achievement of students of color.

Portes, Alejandro. (Ed.). The New Second Generation: The Lives of Multilingual Children in Public Education. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2004. This anthology of first-person accounts of minority-language students reveals the lives of millions of people who, on a daily basis, are denied the opportunity to speak in their own language.


Simon, David and Edward Burns. The Corner: a Year in the Life of an Inner City Neighborhood. New York: Broadway, 1998. Simon and Burns address the battles being waged—and lost—in inner city neighborhoods across the country and assess why law enforcement policies, moral crusades and the welfare system have done so little to help.

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Cedric must manage an array of intellectual and social challenges.

Tizard, Barbara. Young Children at School in the Inner City. New York: Psychology Press, 1988. This account of an unusual research project challenges many assumptions about how young children learn and how best to teach them.


ADULT FICTION


Shearer, Cynthia. The Celestial Jukebox: a novel. Washington DC: Shoemaker and Hoard, 2005. Set on the banks of the Mississippi in Madagascar, this novel takes a look at the New South as characters strive to find happiness, while forgetting bad times. Included are new black Africans, Chinese emigrants, African Americans, and struggling members of the original white families of the area.


NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS


Chrisp, Peter. Welcome to the Globe: the Story of Shakespeare’s Theater. New York: DK Pub., 2000. Grades 3-5. As if readers were tourists in Shakespeare’s London, various characters, including a waterman, an actor, a gallant, and an apple seller, describe the Globe Theatre from their own perspective.


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pictures and speeches and drama on CD.

Haugard, Kay. No Place. Minneapolis, MN: Rebound by Sagebrush, 1999. Grades 4-6. Having no place to play in their rundown inner city Los Angeles neighborhood, twelve-year-old Arturo and the other students in his sixth-grade class raise money and build a park.


Kroll, Jennifer L. Weekly Reader’s Magazine Presents Simply Shakespeare: Readers Theater for Young. Portsmouth, NH: Teachers Ideas Press, 2003. This collection of 13 scripts features age-appropriate play adaptations based on Shakespeare's comedies, tragedies, and romances. Each script includes a summary, presentation suggestions, and a character list.


Ryan, Patrick. Shakespeare’s Storybook: Folk Tales That Inspired the Bard. New York: Barefoot Books, 2001. Grades 5-8. Ryan brings together the traditional folk tales, ballads and fairy tales that are at the heart of seven of Shakespeare’s masterpieces, introducing each story with information about its history, and its prevalence in other cultures.


FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS


Hoffman, Mary. The Color of Home. New York: Phyllis Fogelman Books, 2002. Grades K-2. Hassan, a recent immigrant to the United States, is homesick on his first day of school. When the teacher distributes art supplies, Hassan paints a picture that shows his old home in Somalia as well as the reason his family had to leave.


Levy, Marilyn. Run for Your Life. New York: Paperstar, 1997. Grades 6-9. While living in a housing project in Oakland, California, thirteen-year-old Kisha joins a track team, which helps her discover that she can be a winner.


Somer, Carl. Light Your Candle. Houston, TX: Advance, Pub., 2000. Grades 1-4. In this book, a young girl decides to do something to get rid of crime and violence on her street, which leads to a transformation of her school and neighborhood.


VIDEOS/DOCUMENTARIES


“Children in America’s Schools.” Jonathan Kozol and Bill Moyers. South Carolina ETV. 1996. (120 min.) Based on Kozol’s book of the same name, looks at the differences between schools in rural, suburban and urban environments. www.shoppbs.org/

“I Am a Promise: the Children of Stanton Elementary School.” Susan Raymond. DocuRama; New Video Group. 2005. (90 min.) Winner of the Academy Award for Best Documentary, this film looks at the students of Stanton Elementary School in North Philadelphia, an inner-city neighborhood where 90% of the students live below the poverty line. www.docurama.com/


“The Sheenway Experience.” Catherine Ryan and Ruby Dee. Films for the Humanities & Sciences. 1997. (32 min.) The Sheenway School and Culture Center is in the Watts section of Los Angeles, an area where poverty, racism, and lack of opportunity have lead to violence. In addition to traditional academics, students are taught personal responsibility and skills to survive in the inner city. Students share their experiences and goals for the future. www.films.com/id/8871


WEB SITES

The Hobart Shakespeareans’ web site www.hobartshakespeareans.org / Includes a typical day’s schedule, colleges attended by Hobart Shakespeareans graduates and info on how to support them.

Activities for ESL Students http://a4esl.org/ Includes sample quizzes and crossword puzzles for a variety of levels.

Amity Foundation www.amityfoundation.com/ A nonprofit organization dedicated to rehabilitating the lives of substance abusers and their families.

The Shakespeare Resource Center www.bardweb.net/ Collection of links on Shakespeare. Includes info on his life, plot synopses of all his works, a history of Elizabethan England and a guide to Shakespearean English.

Shakespeare Illustrated www.emory.edu/ENGLISH/classes/Shakespeare_Illustrated/Shakespeare.html Explores nineteenth-century paintings, criticism and productions of Shakespeare’s plays and their influences on one another.


Dave's ESL Café www.eslcafe.com/

Includes teaching ideas and a job center for teachers and grammar resources for students.

ESL Programs in the United States www.esl.com/?s=2&t=88 Allows you to request info from ESL programs at schools, colleges and universities in the USA and Canada.

Shakespeare Links on the Web www.shakespeare-oxford.com/shaklink.htm Includes Shakespeare authorship sites and mainstream Shakespeare sites.

Introduction to Mr. William Shakespeare http://shakespeare.palomar.edu/intro.htm Offers resources on the life, works and criticism of Shakespeare as well as sites related to the literature and periods that influenced him. (Terry A. Gray)


Teach for America www.teachforamerica.org/flash_movie.html Teach for America takes recent college grads from all majors and places them as teachers in urban and rural public schools around the country.

Teacher Resource Site http://teachers.net/ Includes sample lesson plans, a live chat room and job listings among other resources.

The Complete Works of Shakespeare www-tech.mit.edu/Shakespeare/ The full text of his works available online

Immigration Resources on the Web www.wave.net/upg/immigration/resource.html Includes links to U.S. immigration laws and procedures, immigration lawyers, and support organizations.