PERFORMANCE OPTION 3
Creating Choral Work Using Themed Pieces

Materials: Selected Shakespearean text(s).
Grade: K-12
Goal(s): To explore a topic or theme through many works and words of Shakespeare.

DESCRIPTION:
This resource is not so much an activity as it is a compass to point you toward other ways of performing Shakespearean text beyond scenes and monologues. One way of developing a performance of Shakespeare for an audience is to work from a theme. Here are some themes that appear in many of Shakespeare’s plays:
- Nautical/Ocean/Shipwrecks
- Natural Elements/Nature
- Love
- Battle of the Sexes
- Jealousy
- Royalty
- War/Politics
- Magic
- Parents
- England
- Death
- God/Spirituality
- Friendship
- Madness
- Water/Fire/Earth
- Monsters/Villains

A variety of texts can be collected from different plays and sonnets then weaved together. Such a performance gives both the actors and their audience a unique opportunity to hear how Shakespeare wrote on a subject in different ways.

Once you have identified a theme, an easy way to gather text is by using the *Shakespeare Lexicon* (Alexander Schmidt; Dover Publications; ISBN: 0-486-22726-X and 0-486-22727-8). This two-volume set locates and defines every word that Shakespeare wrote.

REFERENCE BOOKS:
Here are some other reference books that might be helpful in discovering themes to explore:
- *Shakespeare Set Free*; Peggy O’Brien; The Folger Library;(this is a series); ISBN: 0-671-76046-7