

Contact Jennifer Bennett, Sanderson HS Shakespeare Teacher for information and support

**Dear English and Theatre Teachers & Speech and Forensics Coaches:  
It's time to get your Shakes on!**

We invite students and teachers from your school to join us in a reading of Shakespeare's sonnets.

The City of Raleigh is hosting a Shakespeare Marathon this April at the Museum of History. During the week of the anniversary of Shakespeare's birth and death, they will be presenting staged readings of all 38 plays -- around the clock! Here's the full story:

<http://ncmuseumofhistory.org/See-Our-Exhibits/Current-exhibits/Shakespeare>

We have decided to "complete" this marathon by organizing a dramatic reading of the sonnets in three parts. Our plan is to have at least one student or teacher read each sonnet. Since there are 154 sonnets, we are hoping to recruit at least 154 readers. Feel free to be creative--if you have pairs/small teams who wish to perform a sonnet together, go for it!

As we are hoping for high quality readings, we ask that teachers offer to coach students as they prepare.

Sonorous Road Theater ([SonorousRoad.com](http://SonorousRoad.com)) is graciously allowing us use of their space at no charge. The dates are—

- o Thursday, April 28, 7:30 PM
- o Friday, April 29, 7:30 PM
- o Sunday, May 1, 2:00 PM

Admission will be free. And there will be scheduled intermissions, since each session may last up to two hours (51-52 sonnets per night), and audience members may depart inconspicuously during those breaks.

Our two objectives:

1. To offer the public a once-in-a-lifetime chance to hear all of the sonnets read aloud by well-prepared readers.
2. To give students an impetus to intimately experience one of the sonnets.

**Deadlines:**

1. We would like to know by next Monday (3/14) whether or not your school will be recruiting readers.
2. We would like, by the following Monday (3/21), to have a list of readers.
3. We'll send blocks of sonnets to each participating school then to assign and prepare.

Thanks so much—we look forward to hearing from you.

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