

University of California, Davis

Information Sheet and Assent Form for Learners

Interactive Gaming, Theater, and Education with *Play the Knave*: A Digital Shakespeare Game

Who we are

Hello, I am Gina Bloom. I am a professor of English from the University of California, Davis, and one of the co-creators of *Play the Knave*, a digital theatre game.

What we are doing

We are conducting research on how *Play the Knave* can help learners enjoy and understand Shakespeare and other literary texts.

Your participation

We are interested in your input on *Play the Knave*'s potential as an educational resource. If you agree to participate in our research study, you will be asked to fill out a survey online about the game's impact on your learning. The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete. We will also look at samples of writing or other work you produce in connection with *Play the Knave* activities. In addition, a researcher may observe your class while you are using *Play the Knave* and photographs and/or videos may be taken of you during class to document the activity. The researcher would observe any social distancing or other health measures mandated by the school.

Your participation in our research is completely voluntary. The choice of whether to participate is yours alone. If you choose not to participate, you will not be affected in any way whatsoever. If you agree to participate, you may skip any questions you do not wish to answer. You may also stop participating at any time by ceasing the survey. You also may request that work you produce in connection with *Play the Knave* activities not be shared with researchers and/or that we do not photograph you. Should you decide not to continue participating in our research in any of these ways, there will be no penalties and you will not be prejudiced in any way.

Confidentiality

You will not be asked to identify yourself on the online survey. If your teacher shares with researchers work you produced in connection with *Play the Knave* activities, your name and any other identifying information (beyond your age and gender) will be removed before your work is shared. Your name will not be used in connection with any photographs or videos taken of you, and your face will not appear in photographs or videos used for research purposes.

Your answers to questions, your work product, and any images of you will be stored electronically in a secure environment and used for research or academic purposes now or at a later date in ways that will not reveal who you are. All future users of the stored data are required to apply for further Research Ethics Committee review and approval for secondary use of the stored data. The records from your participation may be reviewed by people responsible for making sure that research is done properly, including members of the ethics committee at the Human Sciences Research Council. (All of these people are required to keep your identity confidential.) Otherwise, records that identify you will be available only to people working on the study, unless you give permission for other people to see the records.

Any information you provide will be linked to a fictitious code number or a pseudonym (another name). We will refer to you in this way in the data, any publication, report or other research output.

Risks/discomforts

At the present time, we do not see any risk of harm from your participation. The risks associated with participation in this study are no greater than those encountered in daily life.

Benefits

There are no immediate benefits to you from participating in this study. However, by participating in the study, you are helping us gather valuable information about how *Play the Knave* can benefit learners in the future.

If you would like to see the outcome of our study, please visit the website for *Play the Knave* (<http://www.playtheknave.org/research>) and check for updates to the list of publications. You may also give us your e-mail address to receive updates via e-mail.

Who to contact if you have been harmed or have any concerns

This research has been approved by the HSRC Research Ethics Committee (REC). If you have any complaints about ethical aspects of the research or feel that you have been harmed in any way by participating in this study, please call the HSRC’s toll-free ethics hotline 0800 212 123 (when phoned from a landline from within South Africa) or contact the Human Sciences Research Council REC Administrator, on Tel 012 302 2012 or e-mail research.ethics@hsrc.ac.za. If you have concerns or questions about the research you may contact the project director Gina Bloom at gbloom@ucdavis.edu.

ASSENT

I hereby agree to participate in research on *Play the Knave*. I understand that I am participating freely and without being forced in any way to do so. I also understand that I can stop participating at any point should I not want to continue and that this decision will not in any way affect me negatively. I understand that this is a research project whose purpose is not necessarily to benefit me personally in the immediate or short term. I understand that my participation will remain confidential.

.....
Signature of participant

Date:.....

ASSENT TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED

I hereby agree that I may be photographed and/or videoed while participating in the study.

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Signature of participant

Date:.....

I understand that the information that I provide will be stored electronically and will be used for research purposes now or at a later stage.

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Signature of participant

Date:.....

