

Brunel and Shakespeare



Did you know I was a massive fan of William Shakespeare?!

Victorian engineer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel was a fan of the Elizabethan playwright William Shakespeare. So much so, that he had ten paintings made showing scenes from Shakespeare's plays!

In 1847, over 230 years after Shakespeare's death, Brunel asked some of the best British artists of the time to create the paintings. Nine were hung in Brunel's dining room, a place that, because of the paintings, became known as the [Shakespeare Room](#). The tenth was put up in the drawing room.



The paintings showed scenes from plays including Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth and [Midsummer Night's Dream](#). This one, by Fredrick Richard Lee, shows a scene from [As You Like It](#).



Why not create your own picture fit to hang in Brunel's home. It could show a scene from your favourite story, a landscape or even a self-portrait. You can use the frame on the next page or make your own.

Be as creative as you like!



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