

Masks were an integral part of the Elizabethan theatre. William Shakespeare's acting troupes did not always boast large membership, so actors would play multiple roles, using masks to switch characters. When you are reading or staging one of the bard's plays, Shakespeare mask project ideas add an air of authenticity to the performance and give you a hands-on glimpse into life during this era. Ideas include –

Carnival Masks

Shakespeare's "Love's Labour's Lost" carnival setting, featuring two mask makers in the main roles, provides the backdrop to learn about the traditions of the Venetian carnival. Making carnival masks gets students in the spirit of the era and energizes their dramatic performance with a touch of the style and culture of the times that helps them better understand the play characters.

Masquerade Masks

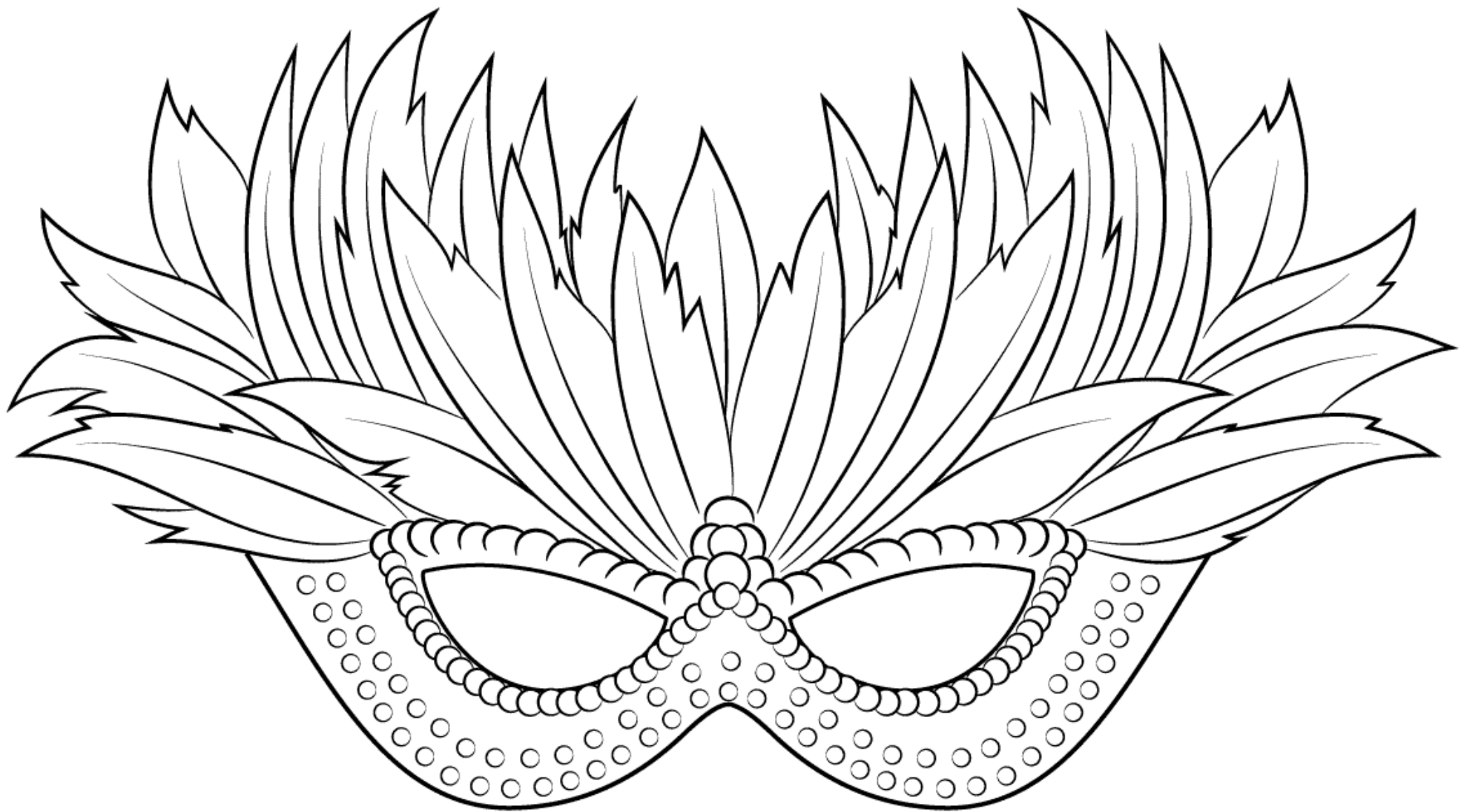
Romeo and Juliet's fateful first meeting takes place at a grand masquerade ball.

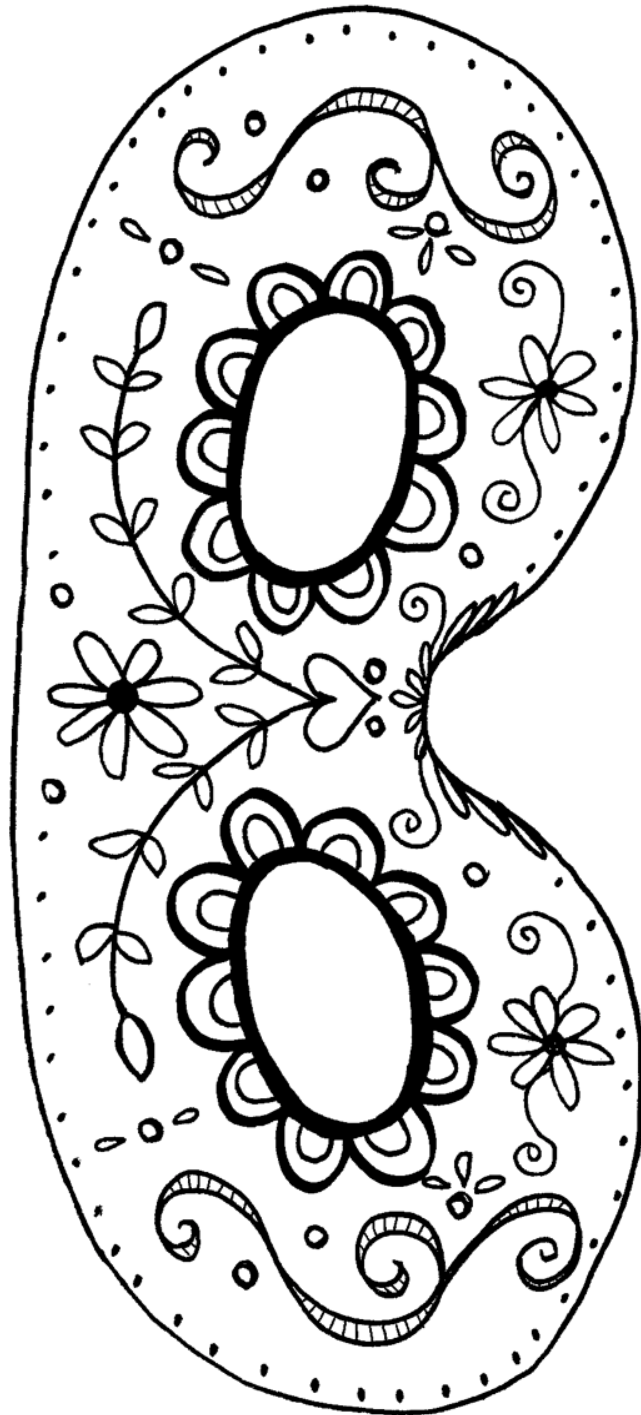
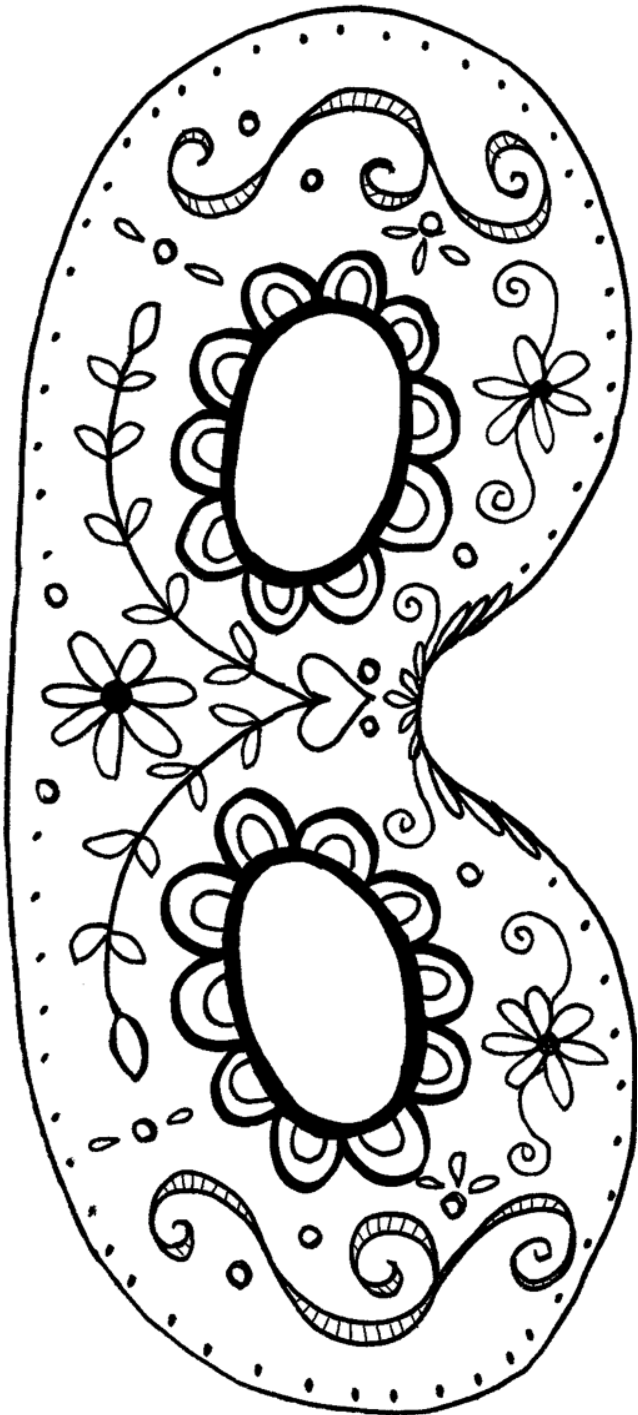
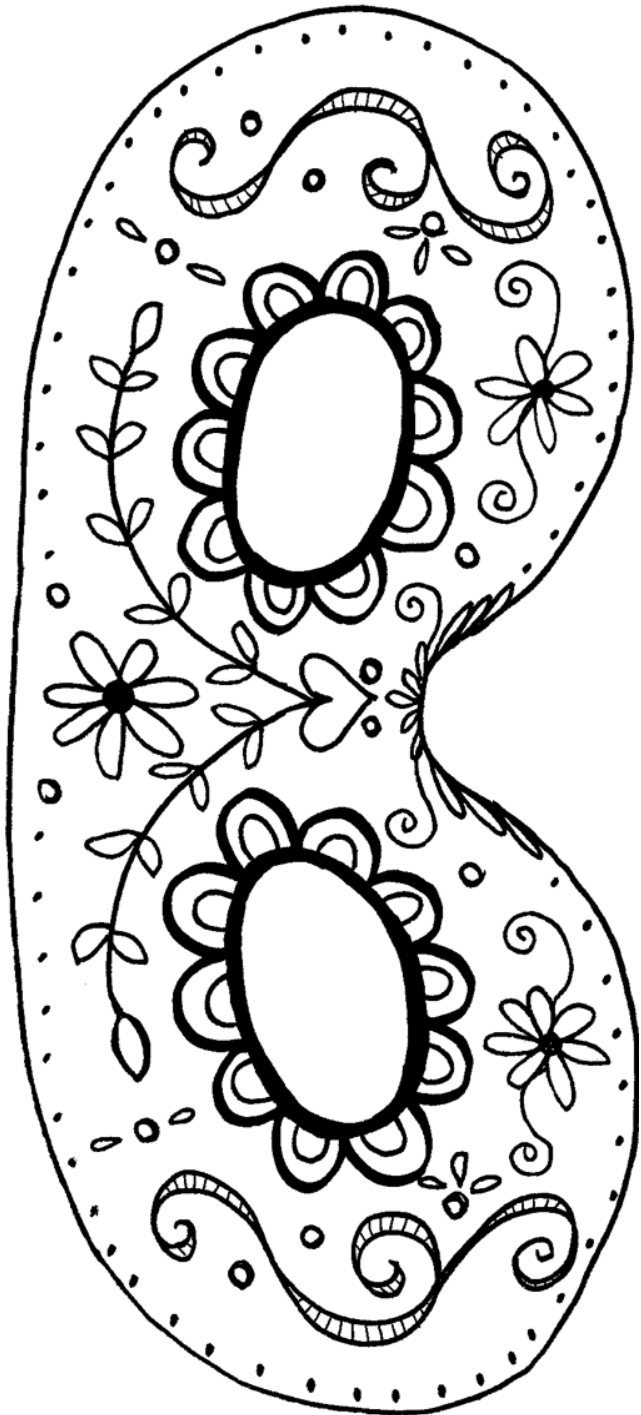
Creature Masks

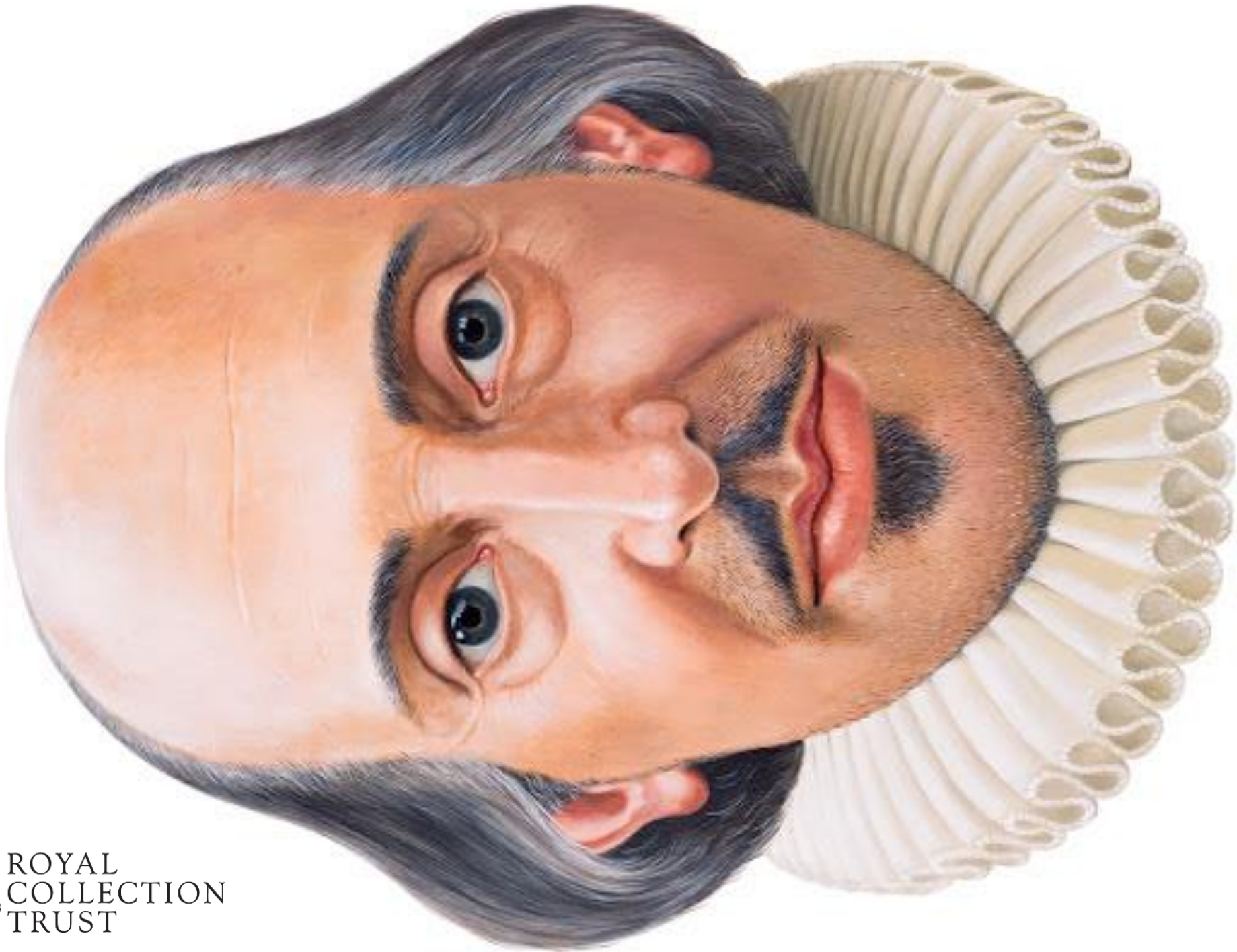
A Midsummer Night's Dream production calls for fairies and animal characters, such as donkeys and lions.

Shakespeare Himself

When your class is learning about Shakespeare, a visit from the bard himself motivates interest in his life, time and plays. Find an enlarged image of Shakespeare's face and create a mask.







ROYAL
COLLECTION
TRUST