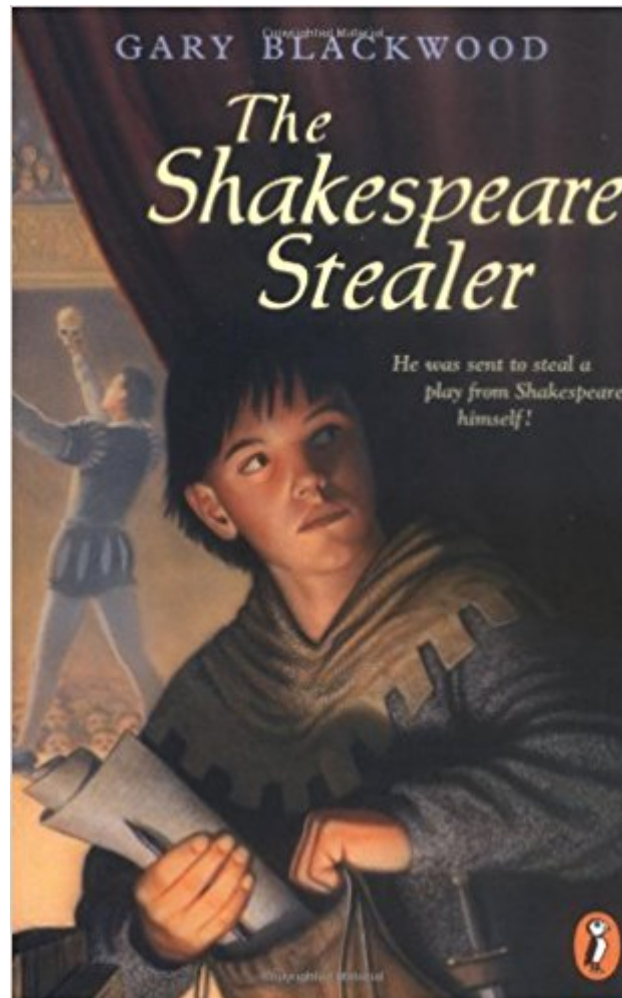




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# The Shakespeare Stealer



## Synopsis

A delightful adventure full of humor and heart set in Elizabethan England! Widge is an orphan with a rare talent for shorthand. His fearsome master has just one demand: steal Shakespeare's play "Hamlet"--or else. Widge has no choice but to follow orders, so he works his way into the heart of the Globe Theatre, where Shakespeare's players perform. As full of twists and turns as a London alleyway, this entertaining novel is rich in period details, colorful characters, villainy, and drama.\* "A fast-moving historical novel that introduces an important era with casual familiarity." --School Library Journal, starred review "Readers will find much to like in Widge, and plenty to enjoy in this gleeful romp through olde England" --Kirkus Reviews "Excels in the lively depictions of Elizabethan stagecraft and street life." --Publishers Weekly An ALA Notable Book

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This tale of a 14-year-old Yorkshire orphan sent by a rival theater manager to steal the as-yet-unpublished Hamlet in 1601 London "excels in the lively depictions of Elizabethan stagecraft and street life," wrote PW. Ages 10-14. (July) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gr 5-8-Being an orphan is never easy, especially during the time of Shakespeare's England. Treated as property by various "owners," Widge, the 14-year-old protagonist, is forced to attempt the theft of Hamlet from the man himself. Yet, after ingratiating himself into the acting company, he finds true friends for the first time in his life. What will he do--betray his only friends, or risk his life by defying

his guardian's orders? The story by Gary Blackwood (Dutton, 1998) brings Shakespearean England alive for young listeners through the descriptive language and situations of the many characters. The tenuous survival of children during this period, even in such a vital city as London, is an underlying backdrop. This, combined with the central issues of friendship and deception, provides a story filled with tension and surprises. Actor Ron Keith's narration adds a strong auditory element to the story. The veteran narrator uses his well-developed talent to change voices for the characters, and employs inflecting vocal tones and silence to craft fuller personalities. Each voice is tailored to fit the subtleties of the character, as in the wicked Falconer. This is a great supplement to any language arts curriculum to enhance a Shakespeare unit, and a wonderful story just to enjoy. -Tina Hudak, St. Bernard's, Riverdale, MD Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This was a gift for my 10 yr old nephew. He loved it. He is studying acting & found it very helpful! You

It is the year 1601, and Will Shakespeare is testing some of his plays in the Globe Theater in London, when the 14-year-old orphan Widge is hired to steal one of the play scripts. In the process of gaining access to the theater, Widge is befriended by the troupe, and they treat him as one of their company. Now he must choose whether to betray his friends or risk punishment from his master. An exciting historical novel for grades 4-7, and I admit that I thoroughly enjoyed it as an adult! I'm looking forward to reading the sequel, *Shakespeare's Scribe (Shakespeare Stealer)*

I really think that this is a wonderful book. Widge is an orphan boy who originated in the country, and has come to London with the task of stealing a play from Shakespeare himself! Instead, he ends up a part of the Globe Theater's "family" and learns some new vocabulary. Along the way, he learns that "all the world's a stage" and that some people aren't who they seem.....

Super fast shipping. Good book.

The book was good, but to me, I would've liked for all of it to be normal instead of ken, wis, and aye. But otherwise, the book was great, I think it is better for people from 15 and up because I am 11 and did not quite understand it. I hope I get to read more books from Gary Blackwood when I'm older.

This novel set in Elizabethan England captures the sights and sounds of that time period accurately. I use it as a novel study for Grade Eight students, because it augments the study of The Renaissance so well. The characters are well developed and interesting. The author's use of humour to sustain the reader's interest helps to keep reluctant readers engaged, Customs of daily life give lots of opportunities for discussion. This novel, first of three, motivates readers to continue reading the series - a bonus for parents and teachers who are looking for books for boys and girls who don't like to read.

'The Shakespeare Stealer' is an excellent novel for informing children (11-14 years) about life in London during the time that Shakespeare lived. Blackwood has woven a absorbing plot which readers will enjoy whilst also learning a lot about London during those times and how tough life was in those days especially for orphans and apprentices. This would be an excellent novel to read before embarking on a study of one of his plays.

Good book. My grandson had to do an oral book report on it and dress and speak the part as well. He loved the book and so did I. He got 105% because his accent put him over the top.

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