MERAKI 2026

Festival of Minds

Sadhu Vaswani International School for Girls, Delhi

ENGLISH
Class IX - XII

Information Sheet for Drama Remix: Classics to Gen Z

Theatrical Adaptation (Scripted Performance) based on a select excerpt from a given list

Date	Reporting Time	Event Start Time	Team Size
3 August, 2026	8:15 a.m.	8:30 am	4 - 6 per school

Competition Details:

Classics to Gen Z is an inter-school literary and dramatic competition that invites students of Classes IX to XII to reimagine timeless works of literature through the language, lens, and lived realities of their own generation. By translating canonical scenes into contemporary settings, dialect, and digital culture, participants are challenged to demonstrate that the great questions of literature — love, conscience, ambition, identity, mortality — remain as urgent today as when they were first written.

The team to select one excerpt from the given list and develop a 5- to 7-minute adaptation that:

- Translates the scene into a contemporary setting, idiom, or cultural context;
- Preserves the original moral, emotional core, and dramatic conflict of the source;
- Demonstrates a clear creative interpretation rather than a literal modernisation.

Performance Duration: 5 to 7 minutes (strictly timed)

Refer the curated list of original excerpts set in **Appendix A**.

Event Instructions:

- The script must be an original adaptation created by the team.
- The use of copyrighted material such as film/series scripts, song lyrics, or choreography copied from existing works is not allowed.
- Sets and props must be minimal, portable, and capable of being staged and removed within two minutes.
- Costumes should evoke character without elaborate construction.
- Background music and short multimedia elements — projected text messages, brief visual cues, soundscapes — are permitted, to support the performance.
- Content involving offensive language, personal attacks, hate speech, or material targeting identifiable individuals, communities, or institutions will result in disqualification.
- Each team must submit a one-page synopsis of its adaptation at registration. Final scripts need not be submitted in advance.

Judgement Criteria:

- Creativity & Originality of Adaptation
- Faithfulness to the original text
- Dramatic Presentation & Stagecraft
- Language & Expression
- Team Coordination & Ensemble Work
- Audience Engagement & Impact

General instructions for all events are on the main page.

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NOTE: The event is open for girls and boys.

Kindly submit the entries online using the Google Form links latest by Tuesday, 28 July 2026.

Event In charge: Ms. Sujata Barua (9582951358), Ms. Garima Kuma (8860460018)

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APPENDIX A

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE

Original - Romeo and Juliet, William Shakespeare

"But, soft! what light through yonder window breaks? It is the east, and Juliet is the sun."

Sample Gen Z adaptation

"Wait. Is that her story? Bro, she just lit up my whole feed. The timeline is basically dark when she's offline."

The adaptation preserves the original's awe, romantic idealism, and metaphor of light, while transposing them into the visual grammar of social media. Note that the wonder is intact; only the medium has changed. A successful Drama Remix entry should pass the same test.

SUGGESTED EXCERPTS & CONTEMPORARY ADAPTATION CONCEPTS

1.	**Romeo and Juliet, William Shakespeare** — *Act II, Scene ii (the balcony scene)* **Theme:** First love, idealisation, the recklessness of new feeling. **Contemporary concept:** *Two students who have never spoken in person but who 'know each other' through months of late-night messages and shared playlists; the 'balcony' is a video call on mute that one of them dares not end.*
2.	**The Merchant of Venice, William Shakespeare** — *Act IV, Scene i ("The quality of mercy")* **Theme:** Justice tempered by compassion; the moral cost of being technically right. **Contemporary concept:** *A 'trial by timeline' in which a student has been caught saying something genuinely hurtful in an old post. The crowd wants a clean cancellation; one classmate steps forward to argue — calmly, on camera — for the harder, slower work of accountability without annihilation.*
3.	**Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen** — *Chapter 34 (Darcy's first proposal)* **Theme:** Pride as a barrier to honest feeling; the wound of being valued conditionally. **Contemporary concept:** *A confident topper finally messages the person they have been observing all term — and undoes the entire confession with one backhanded line ('I like you despite…'). The reply that follows is short, devastating, and screenshot-worthy.*
4.	**Jane Eyre, Charlotte Brontë** — *Chapter 23 ("I am no bird; and no net ensnares me")* **Theme:** Self-respect within love; the refusal to be possessed. **Contemporary concept:** A young woman in a relationship that has slowly tightened around her — shared locations, password access, 'just checking' messages. The scene is the conversation in which she names it, calmly, and refuses to apologise for the naming.
5.	**A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens** — *Scrooge's transformation* **Theme:** The possibility of moral repair; how a life is changed by being shown itself. **Contemporary concept:** *A student who has built a small, profitable industry out of mocking classmates online is shown, in one long night, the receipts: a montage of every group chat their posts have spilled into, every person who logged off because of them, every version of themselves they could still become.*

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