

Moxie University



The Jester



What do you think of when you see a Jester?

Do you think of a clown? Maybe a Joker?

In the Medieval and Renaissance eras, Jesters worked for royalty and noblemen as entertainers. They were usually male but not always.

Although Jesters were also sometimes called Fools, they were actually known to be quite clever. In fact, they were allowed to do something that nobody else in the kingdom was allowed to do. They could make fun of the King! Freedom of speech was not a privilege then so this was a very powerful position to be in.

Sometimes, the jester acted as the king's spy. His privileged position allowed him to mingle with any group. There is an old Italian saying, "To be like the Fool in Tarocchi." This means, *to be welcome everywhere*.



In literature, the jester represents wisdom and honesty. In Shakespeare's play, King Lear, the fool acts as King Lear's conscience.

This statue is located at the birthplace of William Shakespeare, Stratford-upon-Avon in England. Just as this statue, you too now have a jester's scepter!

