Something Rotten! JR. Synopsis

Something Rotten! JR. is the story of two brothers who set out to write the world's first musical in this hilarious mash-up of sixteenth-century Shakespeare and twenty-first-century Broadway. Set in the 1590s, brothers Nick and Nigel Bottom are desperate to write a hit play but are stuck in the shadow of that Renaissance rock star known as "The Bard." When a local soothsayer foretells that the future of theatre involves singing, dancing, and acting *at the same time* (gasp!) Nick and Nigel set out to write the world's very first musical. But, amidst the scandalous excitement of opening night, the Bottom Brothers realize that reaching the top means being true to thine own self …and all that jazz. *Something Rotten! JR.* features large song and dance numbers and a wacky cast of over-the-top characters, each given their own special moment in the show to shine.

Throughout its Broadway run, *Something Rotten!* received a show-stopping standing ovation from audiences... in the beginning of the first act. It's become clear that 'nothing's as amazing as a musical,' so don't miss your chance to bring the youth version of this production to life.

Something Rotten! JR. Character Breakdown

Any role may be played by any person regardless of gender, race, or ethnicity.

Nick Bottom (lead role, male presenting, strong expressive singer)
A struggling playwright who dreams – much to his own chagrin – of having a career like Shakespeare's. Though Nick is artistically frustrated and stressed about leading the Troupe, he means well, even if his actions aren't always exactly ethical.

Nigel Bottom (romantic lead, male presenting, strong pure-toned singer)
Nick's sweet younger brother. He lacks the confidence he needs to write until he falls in love with Portia. Inspired by her confidence in him, Nigel writes verses worthy of Shakespeare himself!

William Shakespeare (lead role, male presenting, rock star singer)
The most famous playwright in Tudor England. Though Shakespeare is extremely successful, he's always on the lookout for inspiration, which sometimes includes borrowing ideas from others.

Bea (lead role, female presenting, commanding singer with strong belt)
Married to Nick and loves him in spite of his lack of success in the theatre. She is whip-smart, is resourceful, and always looks on the bright side of any situation.

Portia (romantic lead, female presenting, sweet singer with some hidden sass)
Brother Jeremiah's Puritan daughter. She is passionate about poetry even though she isn't technically allowed to read it. She is awed and inspired by Nigel's work.

Nostradamus (lead role, female presenting, strong comic singer, tap dance*)
Not "the" Nostradamus, but his niece, Nancy – she can (mostly) see the future, although sometimes her accuracy is a bit sketchy. Her predictions, for better or worse, lead the Troupe to produce their very first musical.

*Tap dance experience preferred but not absolutely required.

Troupe (supporting ensemble roles, male presenting, good with harmony)
Peter Quince, Robin, Tom Snout, Snug, Francis Flute. These fun characters sing as a group, but have no solos. Peter, Robin, Tom, and Francis have spoken lines.

Brother Jeremiah (supporting role, male presenting, some singing)
A Puritan and Portia's father. He sees sin wherever he looks and does not approve of the theater especially Nick and Nigel's Troupe – which he proclaims loudly and often.

Shylock (supporting role, male presenting, exuberant non-singer)
Banned from any profession other than moneylending, but theatre is his true love, and he wants nothing more than to become the Troupe's patron

Lord Clapham (featured role, male presenting, non-singing)
A posh patron of the theater. He abandons the Troupe as their patron once they cross Brother Jeremiah.

Master of the Justice (featured role, male presenting, non-singing)
Presides over the court proceedings. A Shakespeare super-fan.

Minstrel (featured role, any gender, strong singer)
Opens the show by welcoming the audience to the Renaissance! The Minstrel joins the ensemble for the rest of the show.

Small speaking roles or short solos*
Foreman, Messenger, Announcer, Attendant, Doorman, Panicked Woman, Valet, Eyepatch Man, Sad Little Egg, Court Scribe, Clerk

*These small featured roles may be assigned at auditions OR during rehearsals

Ensemble
Townspeople, Puritans, Crowd, Astrologers/Psychics/Fortune Tellers, Puritan Choir, Grim Reapers, Eggs, Chefs, Guards