

# The Merchant Of Venice Sparknotes No Fear Shakespeare

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*The Taming of the Shrew* - William Shakespeare  
2004

Presents the original text of Shakespeare's play side by side with a modern version, with marginal notes and explanations and full

descriptions of each character.

**Tempest: No Fear Shakespeare Deluxe Student Edition** - SparkNotes 2020-10-06

Shakespeare everyone can understand--now in new DELUXE editions! Why fear Shakespeare?

By placing the words of the original play next to line-by-line translations in plain English, these popular guides make Shakespeare accessible to everyone. They introduce Shakespeare's world, significant plot points, and the key players. And now they feature expanded literature guide sections that help students study smarter, along with links to bonus content on the Sparknotes.com website. A Q&A, guided analysis of significant literary devices, and review of the play give students all the tools necessary for understanding, discussing, and writing about *Tempest*. The expanded content includes: Five Key Questions: Five frequently asked questions about major moments and characters in the play. What Does the Ending Mean?: Is the ending sad, celebratory, ironic . . . or ambivalent? Plot Analysis: What is the play about? How is the story told, and what are the main themes? Why do the characters behave as they do? Study Questions: Questions that guide students as they study for a test or write a paper. Quotes by

Theme: Quotes organized by Shakespeare's main themes, such as love, death, tyranny, honor, and fate. Quotes by Character: Quotes organized by the play's main characters, along with interpretations of their meaning.

*After the Ball* - David Williamson 1997

Stephen and Judy live on opposite sides of the world. Their lifestyles and outlooks could not be further apart. But they are brother and sister and when they are reunited at the bedside of their dying mother, family memories painfully and mercilessly return. David Williamson has created a family scenario that is frighteningly recognisable. At times hilarious, at times tortuous, this is a frank, critical look at Australian suburban life from the 1960s to the 1990s (2 acts, 3 men, 6 women).

**Julius Caesar** - William Shakespeare 1913

**Hamlet** - William Shakespeare 2021-02-09

Hamlet, probably composed between 1599 and 1601, takes place in Denmark and tells how

Prince Hamlet carries out his revenge on his uncle Claudius who murdered Hamlet's father, the king, and holds the usurped crown as well as nuptials with Gertrude, the mother of Hamlet. The play is vividly traced around insanity (both real and feigned) and the course from deep pain to inordinate anger. It also explores the themes of betrayal, revenge, incest and moral corruption.

*The Two Gentlemen of Verona* - William Shakespeare 2011-08-23

While the word “gentlemen” suggests that its heroes are adults, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* is more intelligible if we think of them as boys, leaving home for the first time. One has a crush on a girl, Julia, though he hasn't yet told her. Sent to court to learn to be “perfect gentlemen,” Valentine and Proteus are derailed by their attraction to Sylvia, the ruler's daughter. Valentine's mental denseness does not deter Sylvia from returning his love, but he is caught, and banished, when he tries to elope with her.

Proteus' desire for Sylvia wipes out his former love, leading him into despicable acts that win scorn from Sylvia and wound Julia, who has pursued him disguised as a boy. When Sylvia follows Valentine into banishment, Proteus follows Sylvia, and Julia follows Proteus, the stage is set for a disturbing ending. But the stage is also set for the “gentlemen” to take small steps toward maturity. The authoritative edition of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* from The Folger Shakespeare Library, the trusted and widely used Shakespeare series for students and general readers, includes: -The exact text of the printed book for easy cross-reference -Hundreds of hypertext links for instant navigation -Freshly edited text based on the best early printed version of the play -Full explanatory notes conveniently placed on pages facing the text of the play -Scene-by-scene plot summaries -A key to the play's famous lines and phrases -An introduction to reading Shakespeare's language -An essay by a leading Shakespeare scholar

providing a modern perspective on the play - Fresh images from the Folger Shakespeare Library's vast holdings of rare books -An annotated guide to further reading Essay by Jeffrey Masten The Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC, is home to the world's largest collection of Shakespeare's printed works, and a magnet for Shakespeare scholars from around the globe. In addition to exhibitions open to the public throughout the year, the Folger offers a full calendar of performances and programs. For more information, visit [Folger.edu](http://Folger.edu).

**Shakespeare and the Goddess of Complete Being** - Ted Hughes 2021-08-05

**The Merchant of Venice** - William Shakespeare 2003-05

For this updated edition Charles Edelman has added a substantial new section to the Introduction.

**A School Shakespeare ...** - William

Shakespeare 1928

*Developing Library Collections for Today's Young Adults* - Amy S. Pattee 2020-02-14

In the five years since the first edition of *Developing Library Collections for Today's Young Adults* was published, numerous changes have taken place in the landscape of young adult literature and young adult library services. Informed by the professional activism—including the “We Need Diverse Books” (#wndb) movement—today's professionals recognize that library collections for young adults are incomplete if they fail to address and reflect a diversity of racial, ethnic, and cultural identities; gender identities; sexual orientations; and identities related to ability and disability. Contemporary librarians working to diversify their collections select material in a number of formats and must consider the accessibility of both old and new media as they select titles and resources. *Developing Library Collections for*

Today's Young Adults, Ensuring Inclusion and Access, Second Edition, offers guidance to librarians confronted with an expanding universe of published material from which to select. With special emphasis on the principles of inclusion and accessibility, this new edition of Developing Library Collections includes guidelines for creating a young adult collection development policy, conducting a needs assessment, and evaluating and selecting print and nonprint material for the library's YA collection.

The Scarlet Letter - SparkNotes LLC.

2014-02-04

When an essay is due and dreaded exams loom, this book offers students what they need to succeed. It provides chapter-by-chapter analysis, explanations of key themes, motifs and symbols, a review quiz, and essay topics. It is suitable for late-night studying and paper writing.

Teen Genre Connections - Lucy Schall 2005

Collects information on recommended reading

for teenagers in several genres, including personal and social challenges, land and sea adventures, and contemporary and historical mystery and suspense.

Shakespeare - SparkNotes 2002-10

SparkCharts™—created by Harvard students for students everywhere—serve as study companions and reference tools that cover a wide range of college and graduate school subjects, including Business, Computer Programming, Medicine, Law, Foreign Language, Humanities, and Science. Titles like How to Study, Microsoft Word for Windows, Microsoft Powerpoint for Windows, and HTML give you what it takes to find success in school and beyond. Outlines and summaries cover key points, while diagrams and tables make difficult concepts easier to digest. This four-page chart includes one-paragraph summaries that highlight the major characters and plot points of all of Shakespeare's plays, as well as "A Lover's Complaint," "The Rape of Lucrece," and "Venus

and Adonis."

*The Merchant of Venice* - William Shakespeare  
1800

*American Book Publishing Record* - 2004

### **Merchant of Venice: No Fear Shakespeare**

**Deluxe Student Edition** - SparkNotes

2020-10-06

Shakespeare everyone can understand--now in new DELUXE editions! Why fear Shakespeare? By placing the words of the original play next to line-by-line translations in plain English, these popular guides make Shakespeare accessible to everyone. They introduce Shakespeare's world, significant plot points, and the key players. And now they feature expanded literature guide sections that help students study smarter, along with links to bonus content on the Sparknotes.com website. A Q&A, guided analysis of significant literary devices, and review of the play give students all the tools necessary for

understanding, discussing, and writing about Merchant of Venice. The expanded content includes: Five Key Questions: Five frequently asked questions about major moments and characters in the play. What Does the Ending Mean?: Is the ending sad, celebratory, ironic . . . or ambivalent? Plot Analysis: What is the play about? How is the story told, and what are the main themes? Why do the characters behave as they do? Study Questions: Questions that guide students as they study for a test or write a paper. Quotes by Theme: Quotes organized by Shakespeare's main themes, such as love, death, tyranny, honor, and fate. Quotes by Character: Quotes organized by the play's main characters, along with interpretations of their meaning.

**Law and Literature** - Lenora Ledwon

2015-06-03

First published in 1996. The first anthology of its kind in this dynamic new field of study, this volume offers students the best of both worlds--theory and literature. Organized around specific

themes to facilitate use of the text in a variety of courses, the material is highly accessible to undergraduates and is suitable as well for graduate students and law students. The anthology includes important articles by key figures in the law and literature debate, and presents seven thematically arranged sections that: Survey the various theoretical perspectives that inform the relationship of law and literature Examine the interplay of ethics, law, and justice \* Highlight the great scope and variety of the law's contributions to the creation of a world view \* Illustrate various legal approaches to punishment \* Detail and analyze the law's inherent capacity for the oppression of individuals and groups \* Demonstrate that law is grounded in language and storytelling \* Show that despite its solemnity, the law has a comic side Each section includes excerpts from poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction. The excerpts include writings addressing the law's impact on the "outsider" (women, Native Americans,

Hispanics, African Americans, and homosexuals), as well as writings by lawyers, judges, and law professors, giving the reader an "insider's" view of the legal system. The selections range from Plato to John Barth and Wallace Stevens. At this time of increased interest in the quality of legal writing, this course material illustrates the importance of language, word choice, metaphor, and narrative. It demonstrates the practical application of literary effects, techniques, and devices, and provides valuable insights into law as a vital component of the social fabric. SPECIAL FEATURES All law schools that do not already have one in place are required to institute a course in Law and Literature. This new anthology is the first of its kind, and has been specifically designed to meet the requirements of a Law and Literature course \* Selections from judges, lawyers, and professors of law give students an insider's view of the legal system \* Chronological coverage-from Plato to such 20th-

century writers as John Barth and Wallace Stevens-offers students a broad range of selections that examine the relationship between law, justice, ethics, and literature \* Multicultural writings address the law's capacity for the oppression of individuals and groups, including women, Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanics, and homosexuals \* Law and punishment-several selections examine this area from various points of view. Suitable for courses in: Law and literature courses in law schools and undergraduate divisions as well as interdisciplinary courses in English literature.

Midsummer Night's Dream: No Fear Shakespeare Deluxe Student Edition -

SparkNotes 2020-06-02

Shakespeare everyone can understand--now in this new EXPANDED edition of MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM! Why fear Shakespeare? By placing the words of the original play next to line-by-line translations in plain English, this popular guide makes Shakespeare accessible to

everyone. And now it features expanded literature guide sections that help students study smarter. The expanded sections include: Five Key Questions: Five frequently asked questions about major moments and characters in the play. What Does the Ending Mean?: Is the ending sad, celebratory, ironic . . . or ambivalent? Plot Analysis: What is the play about? How is the story told, and what are the main themes? Why do the characters behave as they do? Study Questions: Questions that guide students as they study for a test or write a paper. Quotes by Theme: Quotes organized by Shakespeare's main themes, such as love, death, tyranny, honor, and fate. Quotes by Character: Quotes organized by the play's main characters, along with interpretations of their meaning.

*Macbeth* - William Shakespeare 1881

Eye for an Eye - William Ian Miller 2005-12-19

This book is a historical and philosophical meditation on paying back and buying back, that

is, it is about retaliation and redemption. It takes the law of the talion - eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth - seriously. In its biblical formulation that law states the value of my eye in terms of your eye, the value of your teeth in terms of my teeth. Eyes and teeth become units of valuation. But the talion doesn't stop there. It seems to demand that eyes, teeth, and lives are also to provide the means of payment. Bodies and body parts, it seems, have a just claim to being not just money, but the first and precisest of money substances. In its highly original way, the book offers a theory of justice, not an airy theory though. It is about getting even in a toughminded, unsentimental, but respectful way. And finds that much of what we take to be justice, honor, and respect for persons requires, at its core, measuring and measuring up.

*As You Like it* - William Shakespeare 1810

**The Merry Devil** - William Shakespeare 2003  
Your silence and attention, worthy friends, That

your free spirits may with more pleasing sense  
Relish the life of this our active scene: To which  
intent, to calm this murmuring breath, We ring  
this round with our invoking spells; If that your  
listening ears be yet prepared To entertain the  
subject of our play, Lend us your patience. Tis  
Peter Fabell, a renowned Scholler, Whose fame  
hath still been hitherto forgot By all the writers  
of this latter age. In Middle-sex his birth and his  
abode, Not full seven mile from this great  
famous City, That, for his fame in sleights and  
magicke won, Was calde the merry Friend of  
Emonton. If any here make doubt of such a  
name, In Edmonton yet fresh unto this day, Fixt  
in the wall of that old antient Church, His  
monument remayneth to be seen; His memory  
yet in the mouths of men, That whilst he lived he  
could deceive the Devill. Imagine now that whilst  
he is retirde From Cambridge back unto his  
native home, Suppose the silent, sable visagde  
night Casts her black curtain over all the World;  
And whilst he sleeps within his silent bed, Toiled

with the studies of the passed day, The very time  
and hour wherein that spirit That many years  
attended his command, And often times twixt  
Cambridge and that town Had in a minute borne  
him through the air, By composition twixt the  
fiend and him, Comes now to claim the Scholler  
for his due.

### **Is This a Dagger Which I See Before Me? -**

William Shakespeare 2016-03-03

'And when I shall die, Take him and cut him out  
in little stars.' This collection of Shakespeare's  
soliloquies, including both old favourites and  
lesser-known pieces, shows him at his dazzling  
best. One of 46 new books in the bestselling  
Little Black Classics series, to celebrate the first  
ever Penguin Classic in 1946. Each book gives  
readers a taste of the Classics' huge range and  
diversity, with works from around the world and  
across the centuries - including fables,  
decadence, heartbreak, tall tales, satire, ghosts,  
battles and elephants.

**Henry IV, Part I** - William Shakespeare

2012-07-12

Grand drama of nobles' rebellion against King  
Henry, complicated by the ruler's problems with  
the wayward Prince Hal. Superb blend of courtly  
intrigue, battlefield action, and comic interludes  
featuring Sir John Falstaff.

*Shakespeare Made Easy: The Merchant of  
Venice* - Tanya Grosz 2004

Complements Barron's Shakespeare Made Easy  
texts or can be used alone. Sets the stage for  
student comprehension with background  
material on each play. Builds appreciation for  
Shakespeare's works with thought-provoking  
reviews.

[As You Like It](#) - William Shakespeare 2013-04-01

When forbidden romance enters their lives, a  
pair of noblewomen assume disguises and flee to  
the Forest of Arden, where they encounter a  
magical world of friendly outlaws and wise fools.  
Both a lighthearted comedy and a deeper  
exploration of social and literary issues, this play  
features a memorable cast of characters and

incomparable poetry.

### **CliffsComplete The Merchant of Venice -**

William Shakespeare 2000-05-09

In the CliffsComplete guides, the novel's complete text and a glossary appear side-by-side with coordinating numbered lines to help you understand unusual words and phrasing. You'll also find all the commentary and resources of a standard CliffsNotes for Literature.

CliffsComplete The Merchant of Venice offers insight and information into a work that's rich both dramatically and thematically. Every generation since Shakespeare's time has been able to identify with some thematic aspect of the play. Discover what happens to a young merchant who cannot repay a debt to a vindictive money lender; meet the menacing Shylock, one of the most vivid and memorable characters in Shakespeare's works — and save valuable studying time — all at once. Enhance your reading of The Merchant of Venice with these additional features: A summary and

insightful commentary for each act Bibliography and historical background on the author, William Shakespeare A look at Early Modern English intellect, religion, politics, and society Coverage of Shakespeare's source and the play's performance history A character map that graphically illustrates the relationships among the characters Review questions, a quiz, discussion guide, and activity ideas A Resource Center full of books, articles, films, and Web sites Streamline your literature study with all-in-one help from CliffsComplete guides!

*Teaching Shakespeare with Purpose* - Ayanna Thompson 2016-01-28

What does it mean to teach Shakespeare with purpose? It means freeing teachers from the notion that teaching Shakespeare means teaching everything, or teaching "Western Civilisation†? and universal themes. Instead, this invigorating new book equips teachers to enable student-centred discovery of these complex texts. Because Shakespeare's plays are excellent

vehicles for many topics -history, socio-cultural norms and mores, vocabulary, rhetoric, literary tropes and terminology, performance history, performance strategies - it is tempting to teach his plays as though they are good for teaching everything. This lens-free approach, however, often centres the classroom on the teacher as the expert and renders Shakespeare's plays as fixed, determined, and dead. Teaching Shakespeare with Purpose shows teachers how to approach Shakespeare's works as vehicles for collaborative exploration, to develop intentional frames for discovery, and to release the texts from over-determined interpretations. In other words, this book presents how to teach Shakespeare's plays as living, breathing, and evolving texts.

**The Lord of Anomy** - Basil Diki 2009-05-15

In 1875 the Rozvi Kingdom, now in present day Zimbabwe, is indistinctly besieged from within by the convergence of a missionary, Rev. Holbrook, a militant British bourgeoisie aspiring

for knighthood, Sir Crowler, and an immorally amorous war emissary allegedly from King Cetshwayo of the feared Zulu Kingdom. The Zulu ambassador uncompromisingly makes painstaking demands. While Rev. Holbrook is earnest in his endeavours, Sir Crowler is adamant the natives are enemies of both God and Britain meant for annihilation. The elders cannot consult the oracles; all diviners having fled before the arrival of the foreigners. An enigmatic and malicious hermit comes to the fore in the calamitous confusion that ensues. But nobody can tell with certainty if the hermit is messianic or anarchical.

**CliffsNotes on Shakespeare's Richard III** -

James K. Lowers 1966-09-30

Richard of Gloucester crosses and double-crosses friends and foes alike in a no-holds-barred effort to solidify control of the throne once occupied by his brother, Edward IV. His antics prove fruitful until one final battle with Henry, Earl of Richmond, at the end of the War

of the Roses.

*Everyman* - Anonymous 2012-03-01

The most durable of medieval morality plays, along with 3 other classics: The Second Shepherd's Play, Noah's Flood and Hickscorner. All from standard texts.

**We Do Language: English Variation in the Secondary English Classroom** - Anne H.

Charity Hudley 2013-11-29

We Do Language builds on the authors' highly acclaimed first collaboration, *Understanding English Language Variation in U.S. Schools*, and examines the need to integrate linguistically informed teaching into the secondary English classroom. The book includes specific information about the language varieties students bring with them to school so that educators can better assist students in developing the literacy skills necessary for the Common Core State Standards. This resource features concrete strategies, models, and vignettes, as well as classroom materials

developed by English educators for English educators.

*Heinemann Advanced Shakespeare: Othello* - John Seely 2000

The Heinemann Advanced Shakespeare series is designed especially for students reading Shakespeare at Advanced level. As well as the full text, each edition provides a complete guide to studying and enjoying the play. The Heinemann Advanced Shakespeare se

**White Rat** - Gayl Jones 2005

A classic collection from the renowned Gayl Jones, hailed as "one of the most distinguished African American women of letters." —Ms. Originally published in 1977, *White Rat* contains twelve provocative tales that explore the emotional and mental terrain of a diverse cast of characters, from the innocent to the insane. In each, Jones displays her unflinching ability to dive into the most treacherous of psyches and circumstances: the title story examines the identity and relationship conundrums of a black

man who can pass for white, earning him the name "White Rat" as an infant; "The Women" follows a girl whose mother brings a line of female lovers to live in their home; "Jevata" details eighteen-year-old Freddy's relationship with the fifty-year-old title character; "The Coke Factory" tracks the thoughts of a mentally handicapped adolescent abandoned by his mother; and "Asylum" focuses on a woman having a nervous breakdown, trying to protect her dignity and her private parts as she enters an institution. In uncompromising prose, and dialect that veers from northern, educated tongues to down-home southern colloquialisms, Jones illuminates lives that society ignores, moving them to center stage.

**Julius Caesar (No Fear Shakespeare)** - SparkNotes Staff 2009-07-01

**The Merchant of Venice (Annotated by Henry N. Hudson with an Introduction by Charles Harold Herford)** - William

Shakespeare 2016-05

Believed to have been written between 1596 and 1598, William Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" is considered by some critics as one of his "problem plays." The controversy over the work stems from its portrayal of the character Shylock, a rich Jewish moneylender. The stereotypical depiction of Jews as avaricious usurers was common to the drama of the Elizabethan period. The story centers on the love of Bassanio, a young Venetian nobleman, who wishes to woo the beautiful and wealthy heiress Portia of Belmont. Having squandered his estate, Bassanio turns to Antonio, the titular Merchant of Venice, for a loan. However, since Antonio has his money invested in merchandise at sea, Bassanio must turn to Shylock for the loan. Shylock, after much reluctance, agrees to make the loan on the condition that if it cannot be repaid he may extract a pound of flesh from Antonio. This controversial characterization of the vengeful Jewish moneylender has been

criticized by some as blatantly anti-Semitic, while others have read the play as a plea for tolerance, citing Shylock a sympathetic character. With elements of both comedy and tragedy "The Merchant of Venice" is a work that to this day has continued to defy classification. This edition is printed on premium acid-free paper, is annotated by Henry N. Hudson, and includes an introduction by Charles Harold Herford.

**The Jasper Love Trilogy** - Onyx Cantor  
2020-03-02

This is the story of one man's triumph over Cult Religion. As a preacher's son, Jasper Love struggled to comply with the dogma and bigotry of the unpredictably changeable Doctrine of Good Enough dictated by Cult Religion. He and four sisters labored to comply with cult demands consistent with their mother's mantra: "People expect preacher's kids to be perfect." The Voice of Truth (bestowed on Jasper as a child in a genuine salvation encounter with Jesus Christ)

conflicts with voices of deception from pulpits and pews, triggering crippling anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation. Further compounding his confusion is a terrifying awareness of the cult's distortion of scripture concerning his innate identity. When a Connecticut preacher detects his private struggle, the Bible scholar promises: "If you marry a good Pentecostal girl, this thing will just fade away." Jasper foolishly accepts the challenge, believing that the pastor's counsel is based on Truth. A 32-year battle ensues, during which a Pentecostal preacher's daughter who, aware of his struggle and trained in Exploitation of Advantage, manipulates and controls the miserable husband who strives to suppress and conceal an innate identity which "simply won't leave me alone." Cultists despise his genuine relationship with God when the Holy Spirit weakens the tenacious grasp of the antiChrist's claim on his soul, rescuing him from abominable doctrines through Spiritual Enlightenment to

Truth Absolute. Spiritual Warfare ensues, during which he is molested by authority figures, betrayed by cult dishonesty, falls into sin, is attacked by demons, and is delivered by the Holy Ghost through visions of spiritual combat between the demons of Cult Religion and the Angels of Truth. In the end, his foolish attempt to conform with the Doctrine of Good Enough predictably results in the destruction of everything he wasted a lifetime building: marriage, family, home, career, material wealth, and reputation. Yet, in losing all, he is delivered from the Darkness of cult idolatry, whereupon he is finally free to immerse himself in genuine Truth, Light, and Love, breaking the tyrannical chains of Cult Religion. Released by the Holy Spirit from cult bondage, he is at last unleashed to fulfill his destiny: To teach the Truth about Jasper Love (that boundless, unconditional love known only to those who genuinely experience Spiritual Enlightenment) to a people deceived by the hateful harlots of idolatry who are nothing

more than power-crazed, authoritarian, self-aggrandizing, despotic antiChrist heretics who worship only one god - CONTROL.

*The Pursuit of the Millennium* - Norman Cohn  
1970-05-15

The end of the millennium has always held the world in fear of earthquakes, plague, and the catastrophic destruction of the world. At the dawn of the 21st millennium the world is still experiencing these anxieties, as seen by the onslaught of fantasies of renewal, doomsday predictions, and New Age prophecies. This fascinating book explores the millenarianism that flourished in western Europe between the eleventh and sixteenth centuries. Covering the full range of revolutionary and anarchic sects and movements in medieval Europe, Cohn demonstrates how prophecies of a final struggle between the hosts of Christ and Antichrist melded with the rootless poor's desire to improve their own material conditions, resulting in a flourishing of millenarian fantasies. The only

overall study of medieval millenarian movements, *The Pursuit of the Millennium* offers an excellent interpretation of how, again and again, in situations of anxiety and unrest, traditional beliefs come to serve as vehicles for social aspirations and animosities.

**Hamlet (No Fear Shakespeare Graphic Novels)** - SparkNotes 2020-06-02

Read HAMLET in graphic-novel form--with NO FEAR! NOW IN COLOR! Based on the No Fear Shakespeare translations, this dynamic graphic novel--now with color added--is impossible to put down. The illustrations are distinctively offbeat, slightly funky, and appealing to teens. Includes: - An illustrated cast of characters - A helpful plot summary - Line-by-line translations in plain English - Illustrations that show the reader exactly what's happening in each scene--making the plot and characters clear and easy to follow  
*William Shakespeare* - Michael W. Simmons  
2016-09-21

William Shakespeare was the most brilliant

writer in the history of the English language. But his life is a complete mystery to us. No biographies were written for almost a hundred years after his death. His friends, family, and all those who knew him as a poet in London's theatrical scene died before anyone could ask them: who was Shakespeare? What was he like? What were his habits, his amusements, his passions? Nearly the only answers we have are those we can divine from reading his plays and poems. Shakespeare's uncanny ability to grasp the technical languages of skilled professions makes it difficult to judge what precisely he got up to during his "lost years"--the two periods of life in which he disappears from the historical record entirely. In this book, you will learn what it is we know for certain about William Shakespeare, and by delving into the plays, you will discover all that can be surmised about his uneasy relationship with authority, the religious conflicts in his family, his relationship with the father who fulfilled his lifelong dream to become

a gentleman, and his own unexpected ambition: to become a wealthy, respectable country landlord in his hometown of Stratford.