

Shakespeare's Plays

Emma Dove

Tragedies

Titus Andronicus*

- Titus's daughter blames Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and the tale of Philomela and Tereus to explain her missing hands and tongue. She also writes the names of her rapists in the sand with a stick.
- Its first act begins with Aaron the Moor's lover, Tamora, being chosen as an empress,
- One character buries a bag of gold near a tree and claims to have killed a panther in order to trick two brothers into a pit.
- Titus avenges the death of Lavinia by making a pie out of Chiron and Demetrius and feeding it to Tamora
- The first tragedy of Shakespeare.

Romeo and Juliet

- Capulet and Montague houses
- Benvolio and Mercutio (foil) are friends of Romeo (Rosaline)
- There was a ballet made in the '60s, and several musical adaptations
- "Prince of Cats" , Queen Mab, Balthasar, Tybalt

Julius Caesar

- The fifth act opens with one character, who claims to be an Epicurean, interpreting the sign that ravens and not eagles eating is an omen
- The philosopher Volumnius appears and refuses to hold a sword for the purposes of someone else committing suicide
- Men decide to walk through the marketplace shouting "peace, freedom, and liberty"
- Mark Antony describes thrice presenting its subject with "a kingly crown, which he did thrice refuse". He mocks Brutus as "an honorable man".
- "O judgment! thou art fled to brutish beasts, and men have lost their reason"
- A statue with a hundred wounds spouting blood is dreamt by Calpurnia
- A minor character in this work gets into an argument with a cobbler

Troilus and Cressida*

- A leader calls for a “universal wolf” and blames discord on an abusive slave in a speech given directly after Antenor and his compatriots are compared unfavorably to one of the titular characters
- Cressida is kissed by almost all of the Greek commanders and then called "wanton" by Ulysses
- Antenor has been exchanged at the prompting of Calchas, while later in the same act Thersites watches as Diomedes receives a sleeve as a token.
- Hector dies in the last act and Pandarus acts as a go-between in

Hamlet, Prince of Denmark

- "There are more things in heaven and earth... than are dreamt of in your philosophy."
- A character warns his son to "Neither a borrower nor a lender be", and a father sends Reynaldo to France to spy on his son
- "The Murder of Gonzago" is staged to verify one character's guilt
- Ophelia drowns under a willow tree after being rejected
- Hamlet kills both Laertes, Ophelia's brother, and Claudius, who had earlier killed Hamlet's father to become king
- Horatio is Hamlet's friend
- Polonius is stabbed while eavesdropping on a character's conversation with Gertrude

Hamlet, Cont.

- Osric invites Hamlet to fence a man with a poisoned sword
- Hamlet sends his former friends Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to their deaths, and stabs through a curtain to kill Laertes' and Ophelia's) father, Polonius
- In Elsinore Castle, Gertrude drinks poisoned wine prepared by her husband, Claudius
- Hamlet holds up the skull of "poor Yorick!" during the burial of Ophelia

Othello, the Moor of Venice

- Othello accuses another of crying crocodile tears after striking her, horrifying Lodovico. He murders Desdemona due to the machinations of Iago.
- He and his wife are accosted at the Sagittary by Roderigo and Brabantio, while later--- "the green-eyed monster" of jealousy
- A handkerchief recovered by Emilia is used by one character to accuse Cassio of adultery in this play, set in Cyprus and Venice
- One character fights Montano while drunk; a man is deserted in this work by his lover Bianca after he is found with another woman's personal effects
- Another character fights off allegations of witchcraft

King Lear

- Lear banishes Cordelia and divides his kingdom amongst his daughters Regan and Goneril. He also says things like "Look, look a mouse!", and yells, "blow, winds, and crack your cheeks!" as he runs into a storm with Fool.
- He becomes incensed at his daughter's proposal to dismiss fifty of his retainers, declaring "How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is / To have a thankless child."
- Tom O' Bedlam's (fake Tom) father begs to be led off a cliff after he finds out his son is still alive.
- Edgar duels and kills his villainous brother Edmund. Lear divides the kingdom into Cornwall and Albany

Timon of Athens*

- Timon is called a beast, a toad, too bad to curse, and the cap of all the fools alive
- A servant is recognized as the single honest man after he says he bleeds inwardly for his master. Honest Ventidius is released from prison, and later deemed not (really) honest.
- The play opens with a poet, painter, and jeweler selling their goods to Timon, and ends with with him after he has gone broke and then found gold digging for roots, being praised by Alcibiades
- He writes his own epitaph and is commiserated by the foreigner Hostilius, and holds a great feast where he serves only warm water
- He rejects Apemantus, because he is too judging

Macbeth, Thane of Cawdor

- Lady Macbeth talks about how Macbeth is so full of milk of human kindness. She is the one who convinces Macbeth to kill Duncan in order to become king.
- One of the witches harangued a sailor in Aleppo after the sailor's wife was stingy about handing out the chestnuts in her lap. Another says, "By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes"
- Macbeth could only be vanquished once Birnam wood came to Dunsinane. He kills King Duncan, in Scotland.
- One woman in this play sleepwalks and washes invisible blood off her hand. While another character was born via C-section and camouflages his soldiers in tree limbs from Birnam Wood. One character in this play is stabbed after he calls a hired assassin an egg

Macbeth, Cont.

- Macbeth is killed by Macduff
- "Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow" soliloquy is delivered after Lady Macbeth commits suicide (kind of because she can't get out a spot/stain)
- After Malcolm and Donalbain flee, Macbeth hires three men to kill Fleance, but he escapes

Comedies

The Comedy of Errors

- The protagonists of this play were born at Epidamnum and were raised separately by Aemilia and Aegeon following a storm
- The play focuses on Solinus' extension regarding a thousand-mark fine or execution. Solinus, the Duke of Ephesus, was talking about a merchant from Syracuse
- This play is just about the confusing that comes from long lost twins reuniting, and it is his shortest
- Two people have two different slaves with the name Dromio

The Two Gentlemen of Verona

- When Thurio is called a chameleon, he replies that he has more mind to feed on the name caller's blood than live in his air
- Sir Eglamour helps a woman avoid marriage with Thurio
- Eventually, the Duke of Milan says that Silvia can marry Valentine, even after she was rescued by a friend, later turned enemy
- The two gentlemen are Valentine and Proteus

The Taming of the Shrew

- Hortensio impersonates a Latin teacher. Three characters in this play disguise themselves as music tutors
- Gremio and Tranio engage in a bidding war in Padua to marry Bianca, whose older sister has to wed first and then gets abused by her husband. Petruchio makes his wild wife Katharine submit to him
- One character in this play is convinced to state that the sun is the moon, and this play is framed by a prank played on Christopher Sly.
- A priest, Baptista Minola, says that a few select people must not eat, sleep, or marry until Katharine has been tamed.
- A pedant is convinced to pretend to be Vincentio, the father of Cambio, who is really Lucentio, in order to attest to Lucentio's viability as a husband

A Midsummer-Night's Dream

- Peter Quince leads the "six mechanicals" *(or just the Mechanicals) in a production of Pyramus and Thisbe at the wedding of Theseus and Hippolyta. One character in this play uses the lantern to portray Moonshine
- Nick Bottom is given a donkey's head by Puck, which causes Titania to fall in love with him (potion), even though she is married to Oberon.
- The play focuses on the weddings of Lysander and Hermia and Helena and Demetrius, in Athens. Puck gives a love potion that causes Demetrius and Lysander to vie for Helena instead of Hermia.
- Egeus's daughter runs into the woods
- A weaver in this play becomes the object of a prank by a page after he has obtained a purple juice

The Merchant of Venice

- One character in this play confides in her father's servant Lancelot and runs off with her mother's turquoise ring to marry Lorenzo.
- The clerk Stephano and the lawyer Balthazar in this play are really two women in disguise: Nerissa and Bassanio's wife, Portia.
- A daughter trades her father's ring for a pet monkey, while the Prince of Morocco declares "Never so rich a gem / Was set in worse than gold" while choosing from among three caskets.
- Jew Shylock tries to take a pound of flesh from the Merchant of Venice, Antonio ("Hath not a Jew eyes?")
- Antonio is friends with Gratiano, Salarino, and Solario, and he agrees to lend money to Bassanio, who is believed to be his homosexual lover
- Duke of Saxony's nephew is sober in the morning and drunk in the afternoon

Much Ado About Nothing

- Don Pedro plays “matchmaker” to Beatrice and Benedict
- Borachio courts Margaret in the play, which features Dogberry
- Don Pedro’s illegitimate brother is Don John, who tricked Claudio into believing the daughter of Leonato was unfaithful in this play, causing Antonio and another character to challenge him to a duel for Hero's honor. Dogberry arrests them.
- One character in this play constantly asks the Sexton to make a note of things,
- Margaret dresses up as one of the protagonists and pretends to be Borachio's lover, a deception that is believed by Don Pedro but revealed by Friar Francis

The Merry Wives of Windsor

- One man tries to find out the truth about an affair i by pretending to be Mr. Brook
- A man is stuffed into a laundry basket and thrown into the river.
- A plan to embarrass a man by dressing him as Herne the Hunter is launched by the mother of the woman who loves Fenton, but is betrothed to Dr. Caius.
- Mistress Quickly
- Love letters to Mistress Ford and Mistress Page, and it depicts the comeuppance of Falstaff.

Twelfth Night (What You Will)

- It ends with a performance of the song "Hey, ho, the wind and the rain" by the jester, Feste
- Violet and Sebastian are twins who are ship-wrecked during a terrible storm and separated.
- Andrew Aguecheek, Sir Toby Belch, and Feste want to humiliate the uptight steward Malvolio (yellow stockings and cross garters), who wants to marry his lady Olivia, although Olivia falls in love with Viola, who disguised herself as Cesario. But Olivia is later tricked into marrying a man she has mistaken for his servant Cesario
- The "noble gull-catcher," Maria
- Ilyria
- Sir Toby asks, "Dost thou think, because thou art virtuous, there shall be no more cakes and ale" more"

The Tempest

- John the Savage Plot
- Miranda and Prospero

Histories

1-3 Parts of Henry VI

The Tragedy of King Richard III

The Life and Death of King John

The Tragedy of King Richard II

1-2 Parts of Henry IV

The Life of Henry V

The Famous History of the Life of King Henry VIII