

Survey of Selected Western Classics

Unit 8: 如何讀莎劇

授課教師：國立臺灣大學外國語文學系邱錦榮 教授

本課程指定教材為：

William Shakespeare. *The Norton Shakespeare Based on Oxford Edition*. Gen. Ed. Stephen Greenblatt. New York and London: W. W. Norton, 1997.

William Shakespeare. *The Riverside Shakespeare*. Second Edition. Gen. Ed. Evans, G. Blakemore. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1997.

以下各處引用 Shakespeare 劇本內容之部分，以劇名及幕次標明。本講義僅引用部分內容，請讀者自行準備。



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Reading Shakespeare's Plays

Introduction
to the course

William Shakespeare

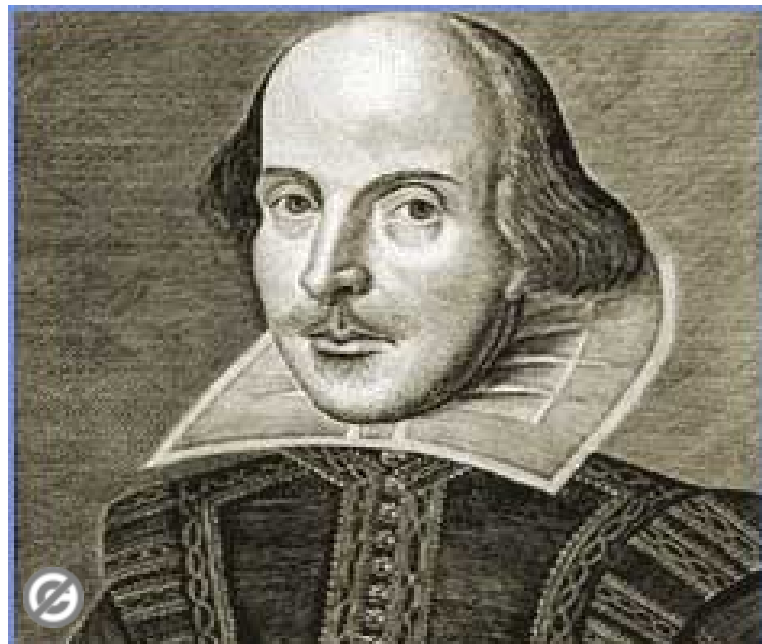
26 April 1564 - 23 April 1616

- ✘ Born and raised in Stratford-upon-Avon.
- Period—English Renaissance
- ✘ Widely regarded as the greatest English poet and playwright.
- ✘ showman (theater person) & “maker” (to use the root of *poet*)



William Shakespeare

- the Bard
- His surviving works, consist of **38 plays**, **154 sonnets**, **two long narrative poems**.



Shakespeare

- ✘ Sexuality, religious beliefs, and whether the works were written by others still remain uncertainty.
- ✘ Shakespeare's work has made a lasting impression on later theatre and literature.
- ✘ His use of language helped shape **modern English**.

Sexuality of William Shakespeare

Marriage

- At the age of 18, Shakespeare married the 26-year-old Anne Hathaway, who was pregnant.
- Playing on his wife's name:
- “While others have their will, **Ann has a way.**”
*“I hate” from **hate away** she threw,
And saved my life, saying “not you.”* --sonnet 145
- Nevertheless, after only three years of marriage Shakespeare left his family and moved to London. Someone suggests that this may imply that he felt trapped by Hathaway.

Sexuality of William Shakespeare

Possible affairs with women

- While in London, Shakespeare had a brief affair with a woman during a performance of *Richard III*.
- 26 of Shakespeare's 154 sonnets are love poems addressed to a married woman (the so-called "Dark Lady").

Sexuality of William Shakespeare

Possible

- One hundred and twenty-six of Shakespeare's sonnets appear to be love poems addressed to a young man known as the "Fair Lord" or "Fair Youth."

- Sonnet 20

*A woman's face with nature's own hand painted
Hast thou, the master mistress of my passion;*

- Sonnet 18

*Shall I compare thee to a **summer's day**?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate;*

.....

*Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is **his** gold complexion dimm'd;*

Plays of Shakespeare



- ✘ Many critics believe that Shakespeare's greatest tragedies represent the peak of his art.
- ✘ In 1595, *Romeo and Juliet*
- ✘ During 1600-1608, *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *King Lear*, *Macbeth*.

General Suggestions

- Read the drama through rapidly, browse w/t stopping to look at footnotes
- Go through the play intensively, scene by scene
- Look up doubtful words in the glossarial notes
- Investigate the diction in *Oxford English Dictionary*

Pause & Think

- Pause to ask at the end of each scene:
- What dramatic purpose has the scene served?
- Occasionally, to mark a lapse of time or
- to provide an interval while the actors change costumes
- Artistic economy leads to a necessary interlude, ex. Porter Scene

Shakespearean Stage

- Empty Stage/Bare Stage
- No front curtain to drop at the end of the scene
- “Exeunt/Exit. Scene II. Enter”
- Vacating of the stage by all the characters, to admit other characters
- Smooth flow of scenes

Character Sketches

- Supreme master in truth and vividness of characterization
- Make character sketches of major characters
- Jot down character traits as a single word or phrase, followed by a phrase naming the episode where the trait is revealed

Example: Romeo

- Sleepless lover (in and out of love for Rosaline who refuses to return his affection, 1.1)
- To love with eye (falls in love with Juliet at first sight, Ballroom Scene, 1.5)
- Poor poet (metaphors shift, Balcony Scene, 2.2)
- Driven wild (kills Tybalt to revenge for Mercutio, leading to his exile)

Plot Summary

- Make a summary after the completion of study of the play
- Select details which highlight the significance of the play
- Big ideas, central meanings

Shakespeare's Language

1. Prose
2. Verse (poetry):
rhymed verse & free verse
3. ballad

Personal pronouns

Subject possessive case object

Thou thy (father) thee

 thine (eye)

You your you

*“You” often refers to people of a higher rank.

A / a he

Confusion for Modern Readers

- Rare or archaic terms
- Terms look familiar and sound strange; meanings have shifted; may have a sense unexpected by you
- The word may have been garbled by Shakespeare, a scribe, or the printers

Examples

Ex.1 Look when=whenever

Ex.2 anon

Shakespeare: right away

modern: by and by

Ex.2 fellow

Shakespeare: insulting

modern: friendly

Ex.3 “solid” vs. “sullied” flesh”

Iambic pentameter

- free verse (unrhymed verse 無韻詩)
- 抑揚格五音步
- iambus (抑揚格):
- metrical foot = unstressed syllable + stressed syllable
- Penta-meter (5 strong beats in a line)

- 抑揚的格律最貼近英語語言單字與詞彙的自然格式，與日常口語的節奏吻合
- 英詩中最常見的音步

King Lear

• ∨ / ∨ / ∨ / ∨ / ∨ /
Why should I a dog, I a horse, I a rat, I have life,

 ∨ / ∨ / ∨ / ∨ / ∨ /
And thou I no breath I at all? I Thou'lt come I no more,

抑揚格四音步

- Christopher Marlowe :

∨ / ∨ / ∨ / ∨ /
Come live I with me I and be I my love

Let's Learn English With Shakespeare

與你相約

Learn English with Shakespeare

- 你聽過 “To be, or not to be, that is the question,” 你也聽過「弱者，你的名字是女人」。若干莎翁名句早已是英語中的共同語彙，英國學者說莎翁是他們的「大宗外銷品」，美國人說莎學是「跨國企業」，不論怎麼形容，莎士比亞的作品的確是人類文化的共同資產。
- 你希望增加語言溝通的內涵嗎？你知道新聞英語的標題經常模仿莎翁的句法嗎？

Shakespeare Quotes - Plagiarism!

- heard on the radio and television
- Advertising media love to make use of the Bard's sayings.
- Authors used Shakespearean quotations as titles for their books
- Ex. Aldous Huxley's *The Brave New World*

Shakespeare's quotable quotes

Politicians dig deep into their pool of Shakespeare quotes

- spoken pearls of wisdom
- “Fair Play” vs. “Foul Play”
- “Foregone Conclusion”
- “One Fell Swoop”
- “Vanished Into Thin Air”
- “To thine own self be true”

Shakespeare Quotes have become household words

- “I 'll not budge an inch”
- “We have seen better days”
- “My own flesh and blood”
- I have “been tongue-tied”
- “But me no buts”
- “Slept not one wink”
- “In my mind's eye”

“A dish fit for the gods”

- A meal fit for a king
- A Blintz* fit for a prince
- (crepe 可麗餅)

Shakespeare is attributed with writing

- 38 plays
- 154 sonnets
- 5 other poems
- used about 21,000 words.
- introduced nearly 3,000 words into the language (OED)
- 'anonymous' part of the English language

Hamlet

- “To be, or not to be: that is the question”.

(Act III, Sc. I).

- “Frailty, thy name is woman”



(Act I, Sc. II).

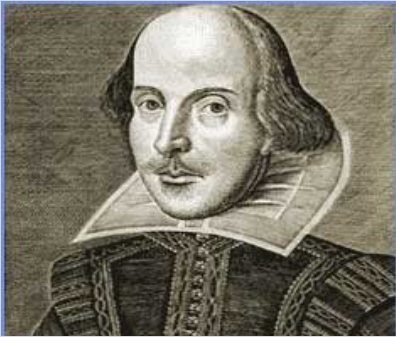
- “A little more than kin, and less than kind”.
(Act I, Scene II).
- “The play 's the thing wherein I'll catch the conscience
of the king”.
(Act II, Scene II).

Proverb about money

- “Neither a borrower nor a lender be; For loan oft loses both itself and friend, and borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry”.
(Act I, Sc. III).
- It’s a bad idea to borrow and lend money.
- Money talks!
- Money makes money.
- A penny saved is a penny earned.

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9			<p>WIKIPEDIA: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Romeo_and_juliet_brown.jpg 作者 : Ford Madox Brown (1821-1893) 作品描述 : Romeo and Juliet, Date 1870, oil on canvas, Delaware Art Museum. 使用者 : Jappalang 瀏覽日期 : 2013/12/04 依據著作權法第 46、52、65 條合理使用。</p>