



ELA Virtual Learning

English 218 Introduction to Literature

Lesson: April 29, 2020



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Objective/Learning Target:

Read and comprehend informational text independently and proficiently.



Bell Ringer:

You have read (and hopefully seen) something by Shakespeare in previous English classes and maybe elsewhere. Do you like Shakespeare; why or why not?

****Start a document to record your response to this and the work which follows on later slides.**

Learn

We are switching gears for our final unit - Reading a Play, in this case, one from Shakespeare. We introduced the idea of drama as literature earlier this semester; drama is one type of play. Drama is a story written to be performed for an audience; therefore, its main purpose is to entertain. Comedy is another type of play, but one which is funny.

Because it is a story, many elements of comedy are the same, such as plot, character, setting, conflict, and theme. Because it is meant to be performed, there are other elements, such as costumes, props and stage direction. In the case of Shakespeare, there are other elements, still.

Learn

We will read a play by Shakespeare, looking at his masterful use of some of the common elements, such as dialogue, and some of his signature elements, such as the soliloquy. Shakespeare is also known as a master of the craft of developing the plot to an explosive climax and often surprising resolution. His plays are not generally known for everyone living “happily ever after”- except for his comedies.

For a wealth of information on the Bard himself - William Shakespeare - we will be using a very solid, reliable and thorough website - [The Folger Shakespeare](#). Begin by simply looking through this website; the page linked here has the full selection of Shakespeare’s plays, shown with a small illustration and a synopsis of each play. Open and browse through some of the plays which you have not yet read.

Learn

William Shakespeare was born around April 23rd, 1564 in Stratford-Upon-Avon, in England. We say “around”, because it is known he was baptized on April 26th of that year, but with no birth records, we can only assume he was born a few days prior. Using the Folger website, please read about his life. Do read the entire page from this link; it is not long but is a good synopsis of [Shakespeare's life.](#)

Be prepared to answer a few questions.

Practice:

Shakespeare's Life - respond to the following questions in full sentences; typically only one or two sentences will be sufficient.

1. What is assumed about Shakespeare's education?
2. What was somewhat unusual about the life Shakespeare and his wife led?
3. Besides being a playwright, Shakespeare held what other roles in the theatre?
4. When did he die and what is unusual about that?
5. Shakespeare's plays were first published as *The First Folio* in what year?

Response Criteria

(Answers will Vary)

- Check your written response to make sure it meets the following criteria:
 - Did you write in complete sentences?
 - Did you use standard conventions (spelling, punctuation, grammar)?
 - Did you answer the questions?
 - Did you use MLA formatting in all things, including a proper MLA header?

Sample Appropriate Response:

Bellringer - Responses will vary, but may reference having read A Midsummer Night's Dream or Romeo and Juliet and will describe if the student does or does not like reading Shakespeare and why/why not. For example, I like reading Shakespeare, but I prefer watching it performed on stage. The language is interesting to read, but also can be cumbersome and slow, even for a strong reader.

Practice: Responses are on the following slide.

Examples of Quality Responses

1. What is assumed about Shakespeare's education? It is assumed that Shakespeare completed grammar school in Stratford, as the son of a prominent businessman.
2. What was somewhat unusual about the life Shakespeare and his wife led? He and his wife, Anne, lived apart for much of their married life; she and the children lived in Stratford while he lived in London.
3. Besides being a playwright, Shakespeare held what other roles in the theatre? Shakespeare was also an actor and business partner in an acting company called the Lord Chamberlain's Men.
4. When did he die and what is unusual about that? He died on April 23rd, 1616, which is unusual since his assumed date of birth is also April 23rd.
5. Shakespeare's plays were first published as *The First Folio* in what year? The First Folio was published after his death, in 1623.

Resources

Shakespeare is also known for a theater his acting company created - [The Globe Theatre](#). See pictures and read more about this historic theatre, whose beginnings date back to 1599.