

# The Bedford Shakespeare

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finally the collected works you've been waiting for visual historical contextualized based on the new cambridge shakespeare edition of the text the bedford shakespeare gathers the 25 most frequently taught plays and augments them with the rich historical and contextual materials you expect from bedford st martin's thoughtful provocative analysis by eminent scholars russ mcdonald and lena cowen orlin offers students concrete entry points into the plays and creates opportunities for lively classroom discussion a lavish collection of images throughout the book features production shots paintings film stills renaissance woodcuts maps and more to help students visualize what they are reading

this text provides a combination of well written up to date background information and selections from primary documents the bedford companion to shakespeare introduces students to the topics most important to the study of shakespeare in their full historical and cultural context this second edition contains many new documents particularly by women and other marginalized voices from the early modern period there is also a new chapter on shakespeare in performance which introduces students to the great variety of productions of shakespeare's works over the centuries

this edition of shakespeare's the merchant of venice reprints the bevington edition of the play accompanied by four sets of thematically arranged primary documents and illustrations designed to facilitate many different approaches to shakespeare's play

and the early modern culture out of which the play emerges the texts include maps woodcuts sermons statutes early modern documents reflecting christian attitudes toward jews and jewish reactions to these attitudes excerpts from the bible on money lending as well as contemporary discourses on usury and commerce excerpts from the first account of jewish life written in the vernacular by a jew for a christian audience anti catholic tracts travel accounts diplomatic reports scenes from a morality play about the corrupting effects of money royal proclamations concerning the treatment of aliens conduct literature and contemporary treatises on the role of women

this edition of shakespeare's romeo and juliet reprints the bevington edition of the play accompanied by six sets of thematically arranged primary documents and illustrations designed to fit many different approaches to shakespeare's play and the early modern culture out of which the play emerges the documents contextualize the social relationships among men in shakespeare's time violence in elizabethan society views of love and the petrarchan paradigm spiritual life family in elizabethan society and ideas about astrology medicine and death

macbeth is a tragedy one of eleven that shakespeare wrote like other tragedies this one centers on a prominent person who after a significant struggle suffers defeat in this defeat the person achieves heroic stature macbeth has been a favorite of readers theatre goers and actors for almost four hundred years and is considered one of the best of shakespeare's plays

this edition of as you like it reprints the bevington edition of the play accompanied by four sets of thematically arranged primary documents and illustrations including pastoral poetry ballads diatribes jest books tracts emblems maps and woodcuts the documents contextualize pastoral conventions hetero and homoerotic desire cross dressing by boy players the meanings of ganymede folly and fools censorship and the risks of satire and debates about gentility manners and education

confronted with the formidable and at times daunting mass of materials on shakespeare where does the beginning student or

even a seasoned one turn for guidance answering that question remains the central aim of this guide

maria howell s manhood and masculine identity in william shakespeare s the tragedy of macbeth is an important and compelling scholarly work which seeks to examine the sixteenth century s greatest concern echoed by hamlet himself what is a man in an attempt to analyze the concept of manhood in macbeth howell explores the contradictions and ambiguities that underlie heroic notions of masculinity dramatized throughout the play from lady macbeth s capacity to control and destroy macbeth s masculine identity to macbeth himself who corrupts his military prowess to become a ruthless and murderous tyrant howell demonstrates that heroic notions of masculinity not only reinforce masculine power and authority paradoxically these ideals are also the source of man s disempowerment and destruction howell argues that in an attempt to attain a higher principle the means violence and destruction and the ends justice and peace become fused and indistinguishable so that those values that inform man s actions for good no longer provide moral clarity howell s poignant and timely analysis of manhood and masculine identity in shakespeare s macbeth will no doubt resonate with readers today

seminar paper from the year 2005 in the subject english language and literature studies literature grade 1 0 catholic university eichstätt ingolstadt course hs shakespeare s major tragedies language english abstract william shakespeare may never have existed or at least that is the point some scholars are trying to make this paper is going to follow the opinion of the vast majority of literary experts and assume that shakespeare did in fact exist but mere existence is never enough no man is an island entire of itself as john donne liked to put it the environment you live in and the surroundings that influence and inspire you are utterly significant future historians ourselves we were taught that the present is a time span that doesn t even last three seconds after that it s the past but the past is not the same as history itself history is what historiographers have managed to reconstruct of the past using archaeological philological literary and other sources as we are happy enough to know a lot about shakespeare s times it would be foolhardy and arrogant to ignore this knowledge and focus on the plays themselves letting the

circumstances that they were written in slip out of our range of view it may be taken for granted that shakespeare was indeed influenced by his historical environment but nobody can say for sure to what extent what if shakespeare had lived in ancient roman times or in the cold war period would he have written different plays to decide to what extent he was influenced is the task of those scholars who actually do research on the plays this paper however will focus on the actual socio political economic and religious background of sir william shakespeare particularly on the rule of elizabeth i and james i and on the elizabethan world picture with its various manifestations in the english state during shakespeare s lifetime

this edition of as you like it reprints the bevington edition of the play accompanied by four sets of primary documents and illustrations including pastoral poetry ballads diatribes jest books maps and woodcuts the documents contextualizes a variety of themes exploring the joys and trials of rural life

includes a scene by scene synopsis production history of the play an overview of shakespeare s career and more

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