


<u>Key plays:</u>	<u>Summary:</u>
Much Ado About Nothing	Beatrice and Benedick have always hated each other. But when the villainous Don John threatens their best friends, they must out aside their differences to help.
Hamlet	When his father is murdered, Prince Hamlet must decide how he will avenge him.
Romeo and Juliet	Two lovers from rival families try to hide their relationship with disastrous consequences.
Julius Caesar	The great Caesar is murdered – how will Mark Antony deal with the consequences?
Henry V	In order to claim lands in France, King Henry wages a great war.

<u>Types of Play:</u>		
<u>Comedy:</u> Often set in an exotic country. Full of confusion and mayhem. Happy ending!	<u>History:</u> Most of Shakespeare's history plays involve 'The Wars of the Roses.' This is like someone today writing about WW1.	<u>Tragedy:</u> Main character = 'tragic hero'. A fatal flaw (hamartia) leads to downfall. Death and not a happy ending!

Intro to Shakespeare Knowledge
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<u>Key Context:</u>	
Shakespeare was born in Stratford Upon Avon. He lived from 1564 until 1616, and it is believed he died on his birthday! He wrote around 39 plays and many poems, including 154 sonnets.	Shakespeare had a fairly basic education. He married Anne Hathaway when he was 18 – she was a little older. They had three children. Their son, Hamnet, died as a child.
Plays were the main form of entertainment throughout the day. Shakespeare was writing to entertain! His plays were often silly and sometimes quite rude.	Women were not allowed to act on stage during Shakespeare's lifetime. All female roles were therefore played by men or boys dressed as women.

<u>Key words:</u>	<u>Definition:</u>
Globe Theatre	Shakespeare's theatre. He owned it with his company of men and performed his plays there.
Groundling	The poor people who went to see the plays. They paid a penny and stood on the ground floor while watching.
Soliloquy	A speech given by one character showing the audience their inner thoughts.
Audience	The people who watch a play.
Contemporary	Something from the time when the play was written.
Hamartia	The 'fatal flaw' of a tragic hero – such as jealousy – which causes them to fail.
Dramatic irony	When the audience knows something the characters don't.
Speech	When one character speaks to the other characters and the audience.
Context	What was happening when the play was written? How did that influence what happens in the play.
Sonnet	A poem of 14 lines, with a specific rhyme scheme and rhythm. It is usually about love.
Iambic Pentameter	A rhythm of syllables: Five 'feet' of an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable.