

Shakespeare's Comedies

These plays were all classified as comedies in the First Folio, a collection of Shakespeare's plays published in 1623. 'Pericles' and 'The Two Noble Kinsmen' are also sometimes classified as comedies, but these were not included in the First Folio.

All's Well That Ends Well

Helena, infatuated with the arrogant Bertram, weaves a tangled web of deceit to win his love.

As You Like It

Cousins Rosalind and Celia run away in disguise to the forest, and fall in love there.

The Comedy of Errors

Chaos ensues when Antipholus and Dromio arrive in Ephesus, only to find that they each have an identical twin brother living there!

Love's

Measure

Labour's Lost

When the King of Navarre and his friends swear to stay away from women for three years, their resolve is tested by the arrival of the Princess of France and her ladies.



for Measure

The strict and pious leader Angelo becomes a hypocrite when he tries to seduce Isabella, a woman appealing to him for help.

The Merchant of Venice

Shylock, a money-lender, takes his revenge for being taunted and abused by Antonio, a rich merchant.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Strange happenings occur when two pairs of lovers get lost in a wood near Athens one night and a group of fairies intervene in events with magic spells and potions.

The Merry Wives of Windsor

Mistresses Ford and Page play a trick on Sir John Falstaff, who is attempting to seduce them both for their money.

Much Ado about Nothing

Sharp-witted Beatrice and Benedick verbally spar while trying to protect the reputation of

The Taming of the Shrew

Tempers flare when the bad-tempered Kate meets Petruchio, who is determined to marry her



gaining a reputation of Beatrice's cousin.

determined to marry her – whether she likes it or not!

The Tempest

Prospero, a magician stranded on a deserted island with his teenage daughter Miranda, plots his revenge against those who wronged him.

Twelfth Night

When she's parted from her brother in a shipwreck, Viola decides to dress as a man – resulting in a lot of confusion!

The Winter's Tale

A jealous king, Leontes, learns a valuable lesson when he accuses his wife, Hermione, of adultery and abandons their child in the wild.

The Two Gentlemen of Verona

Two close friends, Proteus and Valentine, fall out over a woman. Their antics are outshone by Shakespeare's best canine part – Crab, the dog!



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Shakespeare's Histories

These plays were all classified as histories in the First Folio, a collection of Shakespeare's plays published in 1623.



King John

When Richard the Lionheart dies, his younger brother, John, becomes king – but there are doubts about his claim to the throne, which result in a fierce war.



Richard II

A weak king, Richard II returns from Ireland to find that his people have deserted him, and he is forced to abdicate.



Henry IV, Part I

While his father, Henry IV, prepares for war, Prince Hal is living it up, drinking and fooling around with his friend, Sir John Falstaff.



Henry IV, Part II

As Henry IV's health starts to decline, Prince Hal must face up to his duties and turn his back on his life as a playboy prince.



Henry VI, Part I

Henry VI is made king following the death of his father. As wars rage in France,



Henry VI, Part III

Defeated in battle, Henry VI agrees to pass the throne to the House of York on his death, but the country remains divided

Henry VI, Part II

father. As wars rage in France, there are also the beginnings of unrest in England.

Henry VI, Part II

Henry VI marries Margaret of Anjou, but times are far from happy as trouble brews between the houses of York and Lancaster.

the country remains divided and there are many battles before peace is agreed.

Henry V

Following the death of his father, Prince Hal becomes king and prepares to wage war on France – and win himself a wife.

Henry VIII

Already married to Queen Katherine, King Henry meets Anne Bullen and falls in love. He decides to divorce his wife – causing shock waves in the Catholic church.

Richard III

Depicted as a hunchback with a withered arm, Richard, Duke of Gloucester plots and manipulates to make himself King of England.

Shakespeare's Tragedies

These plays were all classified as tragedies in the First Folio, a collection of Shakespeare's plays published in 1623.



Hamlet

The ghost of Hamlet's father tells him he was murdered by his uncle, who is now married to his mother. Hamlet plots his revenge.

Macbeth

When three witches tell Macbeth that he is destined to

King Lear

King Lear divides his



Macbeth that he is destined to become king, he turns to murder. But he is then haunted by his terrible deeds.

Othello

An army general is driven mad by his plotting ensign, who convinces him that his new, young wife is cheating on him.

kingdom between his daughters, only to find their love for him is not what it seems.



Romeo and Juliet

Two young lovers fight to be together, despite the wishes of their opposing families – but their love is doomed from the start.



Timon of Athens

Timon, a rich Athenian, is known for his generosity. But when he falls on hard times, his friends desert him and he plots his revenge.

Cymbeline

Enraged by his daughter Imogen's marriage without his consent, King Cymbeline banishes her. Meanwhile, Cymbeline's wife is plotting to poison them both...



Roman Plays

Antony and Cleopatra

Antony, a Roman general, and Cleopatra, an Egyptian queen, fall in love and go to war against Rome, with disastrous results.

Coriolanus

Caius Marcius, a Roman army general, turns to politics but ends up being banished and seeks deadly revenge.

Titus Andronicus

Roman army general Titus becomes locked in a grisly battle for revenge against the Queen of the Goths, Tamora.

Julius Caesar

When Brutus and his accomplices plot to kill the Roman politician Julius Caesar, Mark Antony instigates a bloody uprising against the conspirators.

Troilus and Cressida

During the siege of Troy, the Roman Troilus falls in love with the Trojan Cressida, but his love is soon betrayed.

