

# King Lear

**KING LEAR EBOOK AUTHOR BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

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## Summary

"Love's not love when it is mingled with regards that stand aloof from the entire point."

King Lear is old and weary, and has reached the age where it is time to divide his kingdom among his heirs: three daughters named Goneril, Regan, and Cordelia. In a final act of vanity, he tells his daughters that he will determine their inheritance according to how much they profess to love him. Cordelia refuses, and her father disowns her and throws her out of the kingdom. Goneril and Regan inherit the kingdom, but the moment they gain power, they begin to plot against their aging father.

One of the greatest tragedies ever written, *King Lear* is a powerful, heartbreaking, bleak, and beautiful play.

*William Shakespeare (baptised 26 April 1564) was an English poet and playwright, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon" (or simply "The Bard"). His surviving works consist of 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and several other poems. His plays have been translated into every major living language, and are performed more often than those of any other playwright.*

*Shakespeare was born and raised in Stratford-upon-Avon. Scholars believe that he died on his fifty-second birthday, coinciding with St George's Day.*

*At the age of 18 he married Anne Hathaway, who bore him three children: Susanna, and twins Hamnet and Judith. Between 1585 and 1592 he began a successful career in London as an actor, writer, and part owner of the playing company the Lord Chamberlain's Men, later known as the King's Men. He appears to have retired to Stratford around 1613, where he died three years later. Few records of Shakespeare's private life survive, and there has been considerable speculation about such matters as his sexuality, religious beliefs, and whether the works attributed to him were written by others.*

William Shakespeare



*Shakespeare produced most of his known work between 1590 and 1613. His early plays were mainly comedies and histories, genres he raised to the peak of sophistication and artistry by the end of the sixteenth century. Next he wrote mainly tragedies until about 1608, including Hamlet, King Lear, and Macbeth, considered some of the finest examples in the English language. In his last phase, he wrote tragicomedies, also known as romances, and collaborated with other playwrights. Many of his plays were published in editions of varying quality and accuracy during his lifetime, and in 1623, two of his former theatrical colleagues published the First Folio, a collected edition of his dramatic works that included all but two of the plays now recognised as Shakespeare's.*

*Shakespeare was a respected poet and playwright in his own day, but his reputation did not rise to its present heights until the nineteenth century. The Romantics, in particular, acclaimed Shakespeare's genius, and the Victorians hero-worshipped Shakespeare with a reverence that George Bernard Shaw called "bardolatry". In the twentieth century, his work was repeatedly adopted and rediscovered by new movements in scholarship and performance. His plays remain highly popular today and are consistently performed and reinterpreted in diverse cultural and political contexts throughout the world.*

*According to historians, Shakespeare wrote 37 plays and 154 sonnets throughout the span of his life. Shakespeare's writing average was 1.5 plays a year since he first started writing in 1589. There have been plays and sonnets attributed to Shakespeare that were not authentically written by the great master of language and literature.*

About  
Author

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## Others book from William Shakespeare

### ROMEO AND JULIET



"Two households, both alike in dignity,  
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,  
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,  
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.  
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes  
A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;  
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows  
Do with their death bury their parents' strife..."

The Italian city of Verona is plagued with violence in the streets. The Capulets and the Montagues...

### HAMLET



The ghost of the recently deceased king of Denmark appears on the walls of Elsinore Castle, crying out for vengeance against his brother and murderer, the recently crowned king Claudius. But Prince Hamlet cannot be certain of his own reality. Did he really see a ghost? Is the vengeance his father demands just? Can he murder his own uncle to appease his father? The more Hamlet broods and schemes, a shadow over Elsinore is growing ever darker, until a case of mistaken identity leaves an innocent ...

### MACBETH



Returning home from battle, Scottish warrior and nobleman Macbeth encounters three witches, seeking to deliver a prophecy. They tell him that he will ascend in rank, and ultimately become king of Scotland. As the witches' visions begin to become true, Macbeth yearns for the throne. Yet Macbeth's ambition is nothing compared to his wife, who hatches a plan to murder King Duncan and hasten her husband's rise to power. The body count continues to rise as Macbeth destroys everyone and everything ...

### JULIUS CAESAR



"Cowards die many times before their deaths;  
The valiant never taste of death but once.  
Of all the wonders that I yet have heard,  
It seems to me most strange that men should fear;  
Seeing that death, a necessary end,  
Will come when it will come."

As Julius Caesar ascends to status of dictator-for-life, Marcus Brutus is deeply disturbed. He loves Rome, wants it to succeed and wants it to thrive, but he fears that Caesar's ascent is threatening the ...

### OTHELLO



"Reputation is an idle and most false imposition;  
Oft got without merit and lost without deserving."

In the city of Venice, a dark-skinned military commander named Othello secretly marries the young and fair senator's daughter Desdemona. The interracial marriage draws resentments from other Venetians, particularly from the ambitious and envious soldier Iago, who hates Othello for his success, his way with women, and for overlooking him for promotion. Enlisting the help of ...

### A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

## Summary King Lear Book

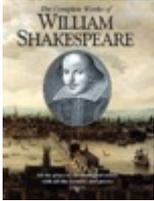
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"Lovers and madmen have such seething brains,  
Such shaping fantasies, that apprehend  
More than cool reason ever comprehends.  
The lunatic, the lover, and the poet,  
Are of imagination all compact..."

Egeus offers his daughter Hermia a choice. She can either marry Demetrius, the man he chose for her, become a nun, or be put to death. Hermia goes with a fourth option: running into the forest to elope with her lover Lysander. Demetrius follows, and Hermia's best ...

## COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



Complete Works of William Shakespeare is the standard name given to any volume containing all the plays and poems of William Shakespeare. Some editions include several works which were not completely of Shakespeare's authorship (collaborative writings), such as *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, a collaboration with John Fletcher, as well as *Pericles, Prince of Tyre* and/or *Edward III*.

In their 2006-2007 season the Royal Shakespeare Company committed to the performance of the Complete Works in a ...

## TWELFTH NIGHT



"If music be the food of love, play on;  
Give me excess of it, that, surfeiting,  
The appetite may sicken and so die.  
That strain again! it had a dying fall:  
O, it came o'er my ear like the sweet sound  
That breathes upon a bank of violets,  
Stealing and giving odour!"

Shipwrecked and alone in a foreign land, Viola makes the best of the situation the only way she can — by disguising herself as a man named Cesario and landing a job as a page for the ...

## MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING



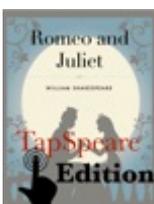
Spanish prince Don Pedro arrives in Messina following a victory, along with his righthand men, Benedick and Claudio. The local governor welcomes them with open arms, and Claudio falls in love with his daughter, Hero. Benedick, however, is greeted by Beatrice, the governor's niece and a longtime rival. While Beatrice and Benedick trade smart and stinging barbs, Claudio plans to court and marry Hero. But the two couples are oblivious to the scheming of Don John, Don Pedro's bitter and malicious ...

## THE TAMING OF THE SHREW



In Shakespeare's controversial but funny play-within-a-play, the foul-tempered Katherina has managed to keep any suitors away with her aura of nastiness. Her beautiful and demure sister Bianca, on the other hand, has no shortage of interested men, but the girls' father Baptista will not let young Bianca marry until Katherina finds a husband. In order to make Bianca available, her suitors begin searching for a potential match, and find it in the equally strong-willed Petruchio. He goes up against...

## ROMEO AND JULIET



Romeo and Juliet is one of the greatest plays ever written--but let's face it..if you don't understand it, then you are not alone.

With this "TapSpeare" edition, if there's a passage you do not understand, then just tap! A modern version of the passage will pop up.

We all need refreshers every now and then. Whether you are a student trying to cram for that big final, or someone just trying to understand a book more, BookCaps can help. We are a small, but growing ...

## THE TEMPEST



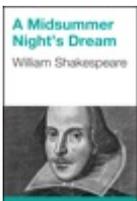
In exile on a remote island, Prospero has spent the past 12 years studying magic and plotting revenge against his enemies, Alonso, Antonio, and Sebastian. When all his usurpers pass nearby on the same ship, Prospero creates a storm to smash it to pieces and strand them on the island. Through the magic of his personal servant, the spirit Ariel, Prospero manipulates and terrorizes his enemies, building to a confrontation at the heart of the island in Prospero's domain. But in that time, Prospero's...

## HAMLET



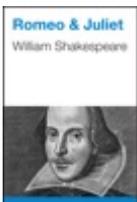
The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, often shortened to Hamlet, is a tragedy written by William Shakespeare at an uncertain date between 1599 and 1602. Set in the Kingdom of Denmark, the play dramatizes the revenge Prince Hamlet is instructed to enact on his uncle Claudius. Claudius had murdered his own brother, Hamlet's father King Hamlet and then taken the throne, marrying his deceased brother's widow, Hamlet's mother Gertrude...

## A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM



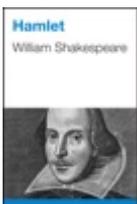
Hermia loves Lysander. Lysander loves Hermia, but so does Demetrius. Hermia's friend Helena loves Demetrius. These four find themselves lost deep in the woods and in the middle of a royal fairy row between Titania and Oberon...

## ROMEO & JULIET



The doomed romance between two young people whose families are bitter enemies...

## HAMLET



The prince of Denmark tries to summon the will to kill his father's murderer, his uncle and now king...

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