

Charles and Mary Lamb TALES FROM SHAKESPEARE

This reader includes seven of Shakespeare's greatest plays.

Love, jealousy and ambition are just some of the emotions Shakespeare's characters have to deal with. You'll be able to see how Macbeth leads himself to destruction, while Antonio must be defended against the evil Shylock. On a lighter note, there are several plays of love and romance with a touch of magic, as in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* or *The Tempest*.

In this reader you will find:

- An introduction to drama and Shakespeare
- Focus on sections: Charles and Mary Lamb, The Elizabethan Age CLIL History
- Glossary of difficult words
- Comprehension and extension activities, including B2 first style activities

Tags

Drama Love Romance Jealousy and Death

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Charles and Mary Lamb

TALES FROM SHAKESPEARE

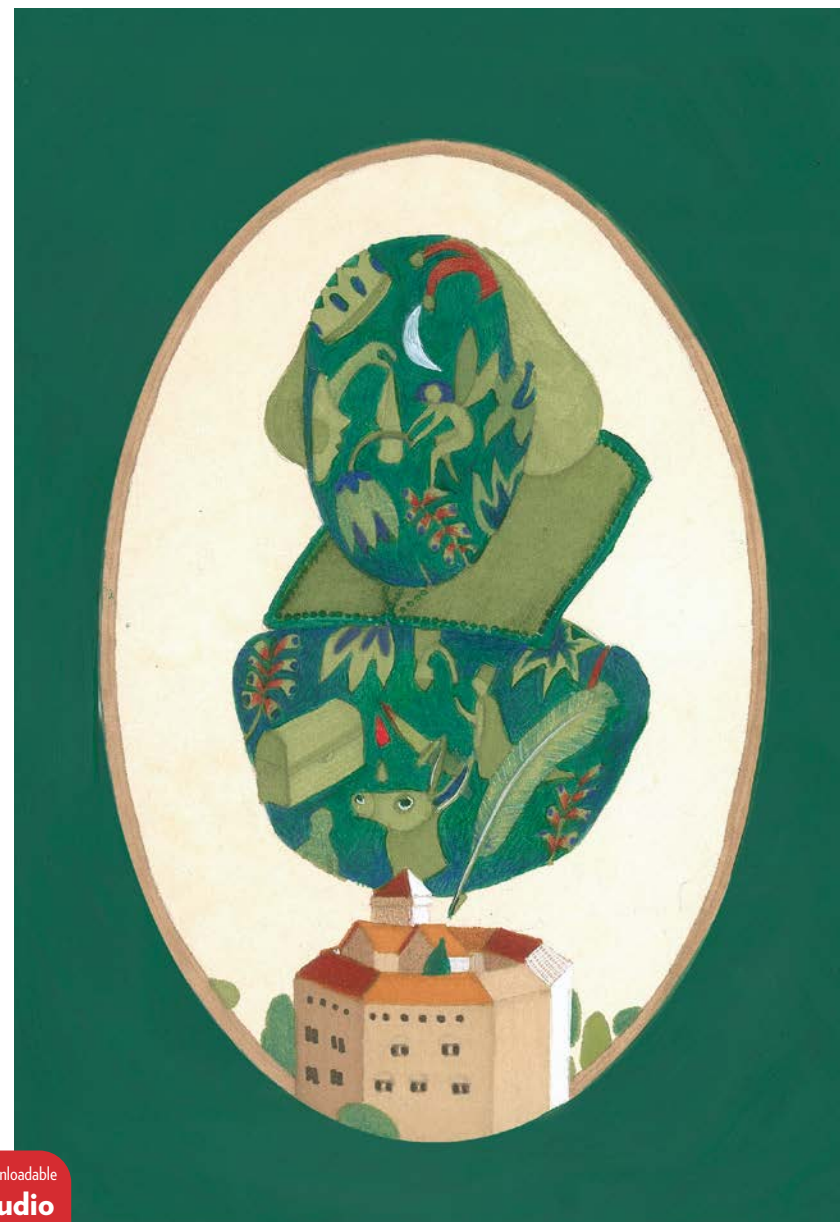
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Book brief

- 1 This collection includes seven of Shakespeare's plays according to the simplified stories written by Charles and Mary Lamb in their book *Tales from Shakespeare*.
- 2 The stories, rewritten here as plays, are full of Shakespeare's colourful characters and include many of his original words.
- 3 The characters have to deal with many different emotions such as love, hate, ambition and jealousy.
- 4 Each play has a different setting such as ancient Greece, Scotland, Sicily and even a magic island.
- 5 Themes included in the plays are friendship, separation and finding each other again, magic and the nature of dreams.

Charles and Mary Lamb

Tales from Shakespeare

Retold and Activities by
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This Collection of Plays by Shakespeare



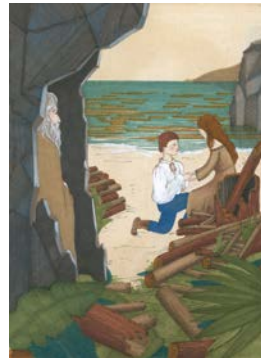
As You Like It

Love, adventure and romance for the brave Orlando in the Forest of Arden.



The Merchant of Venice

Antonio the merchant risks death at the hands of his enemy Shylock.



The Tempest

The magic world of Prospero and his fight for justice.



Twelfth Night, or What You Will

Disguise, and confusion over identity, make this love story full of fun.



Macbeth

A man's ambition and his belief in the words of three evil witches lead to death and destruction.



Much Ado About Nothing

Jealous of his half-brother and his friends, Don John plans to ruin the day for all.



A Midsummer Night's Dream

Tiny fairies cause a lot of confusion when they decide to play with the magical love juice from a little purple flower.

Before you Read

Grammar B2 First

- 1 Read about Shakespeare and complete the text with one word for each gap.

William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, in April 1564. He was (1) eldest son and was given a good education at his local school, (2) he studied classical authors. He married Anne Hathaway, who was eight years older than (3) when he was only eighteen, and they had three children. In 1584, he left his home town and went to London to join a drama company. His success was not (4) to his acting abilities, but to his way of writing. He soon became the main playwright of one of the (5) successful companies of actors in England called the 'Lord Chamberlain's Men'. In 1559, this company built the Globe Theatre, where most of his plays (6) performed. The first plays he wrote were historical, then he moved on to comedies full of romance, and finally turned his attention to the great tragedies, (7) *Macbeth*. After many years of success in London, he eventually retired to his home town, where he died at the (8) of fifty-two. Only half of his plays were printed during his lifetime. In all his plays, Shakespeare includes people from all social classes, (9) princes to servants, and the action often involves family relationships, (10) father and child, brother and sister, or husband and wife.

At times, the audience isn't just aware (11) the action being performed on stage, but is told details of events that have happened off stage, so the play has more depth and meaning. Shakespeare (12) use of soliloquies, asides and introductions to give the audience further information necessary to understand the plot and what consequences it has on the characters.



Vocabulary

2 Look at the introduction and complete the sentences with a word from the box.

asides • stage directions • soliloquy • monologue
plot • turning point

- 1 Through a the audience and the other actors can find out what a character thinks or feels.
- 2 are sometimes used to add a comic effect to the scene because the audience knows something that the other characters on stage don't know.
- 3 An actor knows when to enter a scene by reading the
- 4 In a, an actor has the stage to himself to tell the audience about his thoughts and feelings.
- 5 The is when something important happens in the play that changes all further events.
- 6 If there is an interesting then the audience will remember the story and will enjoy the play.

Speaking

21st Century Skills

3 Discuss and compare with a partner the main features of tragedies and comedies. Think about:

- characters
- themes
- setting

Pre-Reading Activity

Listening

2 4 Listen to the start of the first play in this collection, *As You Like It*. Are these statements true (T) or false (F)?

	T	F
1 All of France is ruled by one prince.	☐	☐
2 Prince Frederick has an older brother.	☐	☐
3 Arden is the name of the prince's palace.	☐	☐
4 Rosalind and Celia are sisters.	☐	☐
5 Celia wants Rosalind to feel happy.	☐	☐
6 Rosalind is enthusiastic about the idea of a fight.	☐	☐

As You Like It

Characters:

THE PRINCE, *banished* from his kingdom.*
ROSALIND, *the Prince's only daughter.*
FREDERICK, *the Prince's younger brother.*
CELIA, *Frederick's daughter.*
ORLANDO, *Sir Rowland de Boys' youngest son.*
OLIVER, *Orlando's eldest brother.*
ADAM, *Sir Rowland de Boys' old servant.*
CORIN, *an old man living in the Forest of Arden.*
CHARLES, *a fighter.*
SERVANTS.

▶ 2 Many years ago, France was divided into kingdoms, each ruled by a prince. In one *such* kingdom however, the real prince had been banished by his *younger* brother, Frederick, who'd taken his place. The banished prince now lived with his loyal friends in the Forest of Arden, where they enjoyed the simple life. His daughter, Rosalind, who'd been forced to stay in the kingdom without her father, had become good friends with Celia, Frederick's daughter. Rosalind was often sad because she missed her father, but Celia always tried to entertain her.

banish send someone away by force

Act 1 Scene 1

France. Outside the Prince's Palace.

[Enter Rosalind and Celia.]

CELIA. Please, my sweet cousin, Rosalind, be cheerful.

ROSALIND. Dear Celia, how can I be happy when I miss my father so much?

[Enter servant.]

SERVANT. Mistress Celia, there's a match about to start.

CELIA. What kind of match?

SERVANT. Two men who must fight each other.

CELIA. Come, Rosalind. Maybe a good fight will lift your spirits.

ROSALIND. If you say so, dear cousin.

[Exit all.]

Act 1 Scene 2

▶ 3 *Palace grounds.*

[Enter Prince Frederick, Celia, Rosalind and the two fighters. One, called Charles, is very big and strong, while the other is just a young boy who seems much weaker.]

ROSALIND. Must the boy fight against that huge man?

CELIA. Oh dear! He's far too young.

FREDERICK. The boy has no chance of winning, but won't listen to reason. Maybe if you speak to him, ladies, he'll give up the fight. Come Charles, my good man; we must speak together.

[Exit Frederick and Charles.]

CELIA. Young gentleman, you have too much courage for your age. Please, for your own safety, give up this challenge.

ROSALIND. Do, young sir; your good name won't be damaged.

ORLANDO. Let your kind eyes and gentle wishes go with me to my challenge. If I'm defeated, I'll do my friends no wrong, for I have none to cry for me; only a brother who hates me.

Tales from Shakespeare

ROSALIND. Then, be strong and quick.

[Re-enter Frederick and Charles with servants.]

CHARLES. Are you ready, young man?

ORLANDO. Ready, sir.

CHARLES. You'll only last one fall.

ORLANDO. We'll see.

[Charles and Orlando fight. Charles is thrown to the ground.]

ROSALIND. Oh excellent young man!

FREDERICK. No more, no more. *[to servants]* Take Charles away.

[Exit Charles, helped by servants.]

FREDERICK. What's your name, young man?

ORLANDO. Orlando, my lord; the youngest son of Sir Rowland de Boys.

FREDERICK. The world judged your father as a man of honour; for me, he was an enemy. You did well and you're a fine youth, but I'd have been better pleased if you'd told me of another father.

[Exit Prince Frederick.]

ORLANDO. I'm proud to be Sir Rowland's son.

ROSALIND. My father loved Sir Rowland.

CELIA. Sir, my father's unkind words strike my heart. You deserve only to be praised.

ROSALIND. Gentleman, *[giving him a chain from her neck.]* wear this for me; if I were richer, I'd give you more.

CELIA. Shall we go, cousin?

ROSALIND. Goodbye, fine gentleman.

[Exit Rosalind and Celia.]

ORLANDO. What passion ties my tongue? I didn't speak to her, yet she was waiting for my answer. Oh poor Orlando! You've been beaten, not by Charles, but by another weakness.

[Enter servant.]

SERVANT. Good sir, I advise you to leave this place. Prince Frederick is turning everyone against you.

ORLANDO. I thank you, sir; but please, tell me; which of the two ladies is the prince's daughter?

SERVANT. In manners neither; but indeed, the smaller, Celia, is his daughter: the other, Rosalind, is daughter to the banished prince. They're like sisters to each other. But lately, Prince Frederick has turned against his gentle niece; the people praise her good qualities, and feel sorry for her, because of her father's situation. One day, for sure, he'll try to harm the poor girl. Goodbye sir; may you find a better world than this.

ORLANDO. Goodbye and thank you once more, my friend.

[Exit servant.]

ORLANDO. So I must go from a terrible prince back to my terrible brother, Oliver. Despite him being the eldest, and the promises made to my dead father, Oliver has no care of me and gives me nothing but misery. No education, no love. Oh, but sweet Rosalind!

[Exit Orlando.]

Act I Scene 3

A room in the Palace.

[Enter Celia and Rosalind.]

CELIA. Why, Rosalind! Not a word? Is all this for your father?

ROSALIND. Just some of it.

CELIA. Can it be, that so suddenly, you should fall in love with Sir Rowland's youngest son?

ROSALIND. The Prince, my father, loved his father dearly.

CELIA. Does that mean you should love his son dearly? In that case, I should hate him, for my father hated his father; yet I hate not Orlando.

ROSALIND. No, please don't hate him. I love him. Look, here comes your father.

CELIA. With his eyes full of anger.

[Enter Prince Frederick.]

Shakespeare creates a comic effect here and throughout the play by showing how quickly people can fall in love with each other without the suffering connected to love that had been common in English poetry and literature for hundreds of years.

Tales from Shakespeare

FREDERICK. Mistress, get your things ready and leave this palace immediately.

ROSALIND. Me, uncle?

FREDERICK. Yes, you; be gone from my palace forever, or die.

ROSALIND. I beg you, my lord, tell me what fault I have.

FREDERICK. I don't trust you.

ROSALIND. Why not?

FREDERICK. You're your father's daughter. That's good enough reason.

CELIA. Please, father, hear me speak. When you sent her father away, I didn't ask you to let Rosalind stay. I was too young then. But, now I know her; if you don't trust her, then you can't trust me either. We can't be separated.

FREDERICK. She does you wrong. Her silence and patience make people feel pity for her. You'll shine brighter once she's gone. Say no more; my decision is made; she must leave.

[Exit Prince Frederick.]

CELIA. Oh my poor Rosalind! Where will you go?

ROSALIND. I know not.

CELIA. We won't be separated. Help me to plan our escape.

ROSALIND. But where shall we go?

CELIA. To the Forest of Arden, to look for my uncle.

ROSALIND. But it's dangerous there, especially for two ladies like us. Maybe it'd be better if I dressed as a man from the countryside; I'm taller than usual for a woman.

CELIA. And I'll be your sister and wear the poor clothes of a village girl. But, what will I call you when you're a man?

ROSALIND. Call me Ganymede. And you? What will you be called?

CELIA. Aliena. Right, let's get our wealth together. We'll leave this night.

[Exit all.]

In Greek mythology, Ganymede, who Zeus loves and trusts dearly, is the name of a beautiful boy who pours and serves drinks at the Royal Table in Olympus.

Act 2 Scene 1

In front of Oliver's house.

[Enter Orlando and Adam, once, his father's loyal servant.]

ADAM. Oh my sweet, young master. You're so like your dear father, Sir Rowland. How are you so strong, yet gentle? Why did you win against Prince Frederick's man? News of this win has already arrived before you and goes against you.

ORLANDO. Why?

ADAM. Oh, my poor boy! Your eldest brother, Oliver, planned the fight, thinking you wouldn't survive. He's always been jealous of the fact that you have your father's good nature and elegant manners. Now he's furious, and plans to burn this house while you're sleeping in it, this night. Run away, Orlando!

ORLANDO. But where will I go? Will I live on the road and have to beg for food or steal? No! I'd rather face my evil brother.

ADAM. Take these five hundred gold coins; all I have. I'll come with you and be your servant. Despite my age, I promise to be as loyal to you, as I was to your father.

ORLANDO. Oh good old man! We'll go together then, and leave this dreadful place forever.

[Exit all.]

Act 2 Scene 2

The Forest of Arden.

[Enter Rosalind in boy's clothes and Celia dressed as a village girl.]

ROSALIND. Oh, how tired I am! Were it not for these boy's clothes, I'd cry like a woman. Instead, I must help the weaker one, as men do; so courage, good Aliena.

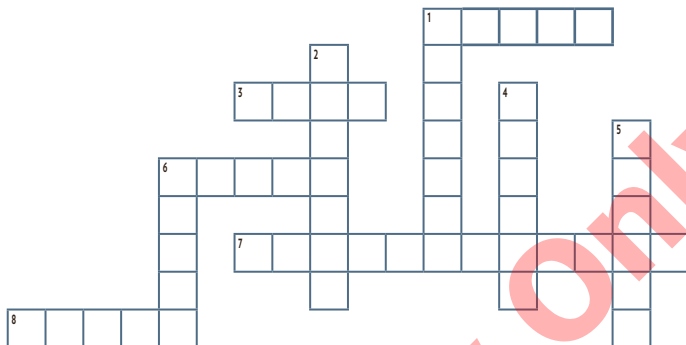
CELIA. I'm sorry; I can't go any further.

ROSALIND. Well, this is the Forest of Arden. Look! An old man is coming our way.

After-Reading Activities

Reading Comprehension

- 1 Use the clues below to complete the crossword about *As You Like It*.



Clues Across

- 1 Rosalind gives this to Orlando after the fight.
- 3 Orlando hangs this on a tree to show his love for Rosalind.
- 6 Orlando is ready to fight the prince for food with this.
- 7 Oliver brings this to Rosalind with a message from Orlando.
- 8 Rosalind was taught magic by this person.

Clues Down

- 1 Rosalind and Celia buy this to live in.
- 2 At the end of the play there is this kind of celebration.
- 4 The country where the play is set.
- 5 The place where the banished prince lives.
- 6 Oliver is nearly bitten by this animal.



Grammar B2 First

- 2 Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Use between two and five words, including the word given, without changing it.

- 1 Oliver didn't let Orlando have an education.
allowed
Orlando have an education.
- 2 Only Frederick hated Sir Rowland.
except
Everyone Frederick.
- 3 When everyone saw Charles, they had no doubts that he'd win against Orlando.
chance
Everyone thought that Orlando against Charles.
- 4 The last time the prince saw Rosalind, was before he was sent to the forest.
seen
The prince being sent to the forest.
- 5 Adam was so tired and hungry that he had to lie down.
too
Adam was walk anymore.

Pre-Reading Activity

Listening

- 4 3 Listen to Act 1 Scene 1 of the next play, *The Merchant of Venice*, and answer the following questions.

- 1 Why does Bassanio think Portia might love him?
- 2 Why has Portia suddenly become rich?
- 3 Why does Bassanio want to borrow money from Antonio?
- 4 Why can't Antonio satisfy his friend immediately?
- 5 Why can't Bassanio wait a bit?
- 6 How do they decide to solve the problem?