

Chapter 1 : [PDF/ePub Download] the bedford companion to shakespeare eBook

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This document is under construction. It will grow with each assignment and be complete by the end of the Spring semester. Not all of the passages in the slide presentations are represented below; therefore, you will surely want to review the slide shows. Shakespeare, "Shakespeare," and the Problem of Authorship, What is your sense of the Shakespeare authorship debate? What position did the Puritans take toward the theater? Comedy, Explain how "structure"--not humor--is the essential ingredient of a comedy. Performances, Playhouses, and Players, ; esp. Why is it significant that the playhouses were outside the main part of London? Explain the concept of the "carnavalesque. After the Bible, what was the most important book in Elizabethan England? What texts that Shakespeare could have read or would have heard about concern the exploration of the new world? Which one of our plays relates to Montaigne? Mixed Modes, McDonald states that "The Merchant of Venice is probably the most illustrative example of the high cost of comic resolution. In other words, how does the play incline toward problem comedy? So what are the characteristics of a play that illustrates "mixed modes"? Why might Shakespeare have created a mixed-modal play? Think especially about guilds. Where does the Globe Theater fit into the geography of London? That are the Liberties? More broadly, how about the seasons? How much did an average laborer make per year? How much does Falstaff owe Justice Shallow at the end of 2H4? How much does "a fine outfit for a man or a woman" cost? What kind of "values and routines of the rural existence" might Shakespeare have been exposed to while he was growing up? How are they relevant to As You Like It? What objection to the theater did the Puritans raise on the basis of clothing? What is the Folio? What is "the most important historical phenomenon in the late sixteenth century"? Primogeniture, What is it, and how does it relate to our plays? Note that it is a concept relevant to ALL eight of our plays. How does each play call specific attention to it? History, What is the Great or Second Tetralogy? In what way is it "an epic story"? How is it "an enormous comedy weighted with intense tragic insights"? What are "the textuality of history" and "the historicity of texts"? What contribution did E. Tillyard make to our understanding of the Early Modern period? The Theater and the Authorities, Be clear about the relationship between the theater and the following things: What did the Earl of Essex do? In what way was the theater like a pressure release valve? Note that similar statements are made on , , and What does MacDonald mean on by "self-representation"? In what ways was she a player in the "theater of politics" ? What does McDonald say on about King Lear as a historical background analogy? What did the Popes think of Elizabeth ? What was one of the causes of the English Revolution ? Understand the connection between the Great Chain of Being and our two history plays. Why is such an important date in English history? In what way was the theater like "a safety valve" ? Why did the Puritans hate the theater? What was that error? What does Aristotle say about "pity and fear" 86? What is "the tragic paradox" 87? What is the connection between tragedy and "good government" 87? What are hamartia and catharsis? Aristotle, from Poetics, See for catharsis of fear and pity. What is a tragedy? What are the six parts of a tragedy? What are the three parts of a tragedy? What are the three parts of the plot? What did Aristotle, humoural theory, and the church have to do with this situation? What does McDonald say about prostitutes on page ? Who was Aemilia Lanyer, and what was her possible connection to Shakespeare? What sort of abuse was directed toward educated women ? What is a "companionate marriage"? How does it reflect a shift in marriage conventions? What did reformed theology, especially Puritanism, have to do with the shift toward companionate marriage? Was divorce an option in the Early Modern period? What was the average age for marriage? Were parents attached to their children the way they are today? What does McDonald mean by "enforced intimacy" on ? What were the types of "irregular" marriages? What percentage of brides were pregnant when they got married? Describe the social hierarchy What are "sumptuary laws"? What was the social status of Jews, Africans, and American natives? What edict did Queen Elizabeth issue? Note that page has an excellent description of the four humours. Romance, What are the characteristics of a romance? What would you say is the relationship between festive comedy, problem

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comedy, and romance? McDonald states that Odysseus visits the underworld. That is technically not true. Yes, he does visit with shades, but they come up to a meadow to meet him. He does not descend into the classical underworld, as does Aeneas in Aeneid, book 6. Be clear how this borrowing relates to two key terms on page

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