

THE MOST RELEVANT PLAYS OF **SHAKESPEARE**

ROMEO AND JULIET

- **When was it written?**

1594

What's it about?

The children of mortal enemies fall for each other. It all gets a bit.

Why's it so good?

It's the uber-love story, the template for every tale of doomed romance ever written. Everything else is just a variation.

Summary

- This play relates a history of two lovers that their parents are mortal enemies and they saw in secret and finally they marry. At the final they choose the suicide because they parents separate them and they prefer die to live separated.

HAMLET

- **When was it written?**

1600

- **What's it about?**

A student ponders the meaning of life when he should be on a killing spree.

- **Why's it so good?**

What is there left to say about 'Hamlet'? Its reputation is so towering it's hard to be objective about it, but this epic about a young man contemplating his own mortality while attempting to avenge his father is certainly a pretty hot contender for the greatest thing ever written in English.

- **Summary**

Hamlet was the prince of Denmark when his father died and his uncle inherited the crown of the country. One night a ghost appears to him, the ghost of his father, and tells him the truth: he was assassinated by the one who is now king of the kingdom. Enraged Hamlet seeks the vengeance his father has asked for. After years of suffering and despair Hamlet fulfills his revenge, but at the same time signs his death. The play ends with the death of the protagonist.

KING LEAR

- **When was it written?**

1605

- **What's it about?**

A father-of-three takes early retirement and goes a little bit nuts.

- **Why's it so good?**

The last of Shakespeare's great tragedies, this wild, elemental play about a tyrant losing his mind in old age is a haunting vision of collapse.

- **Summary**

- "King Lear" is based on a popular tale that appears incorporated into the ancient history of England from the twelfth century. The chronicles tell that old Lear wanted to know the degree of affection of his three daughters to designate successor whom he loved most. Two fell apart in compliments and the youngest replied that she loved him as a father and nothing more. It seemed to the king little that he punished her. Time would prove later that she was the only one worthy of the throne, which, at last, after a war with the sisters, succeeded. Shakespeare broadens the plot and infuses history with a very personal vision. What it ultimately presents is an extreme experience of pain, madness and destruction expressed crudely and unreservedly.