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Shakespeare *Right Now!*

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Read Shakespeare's plays as *novels*—for *free!*

All of the speeches, without the annoyances

Today, addition of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* completed the set of 37 “novelized” plays of William Shakespeare, each including his characters’ complete dialogue, offered free as downloadable documents and **e-book** files at the website **Shakespeare *Right Now!*** (www.wsrightnow.com).

All of the standard canon’s titles are now available, free for personal use: as documents—Microsoft Word (.doc), portable document (.pdf), and rich-text (.rtf); in Web browsers’ hypertext markup language (.html); and in the e-book formats EPUB, MOBI, LRF and PDB. The files use no DRM (digital rights management) scheme, and no registration is required to download them or to read on line.

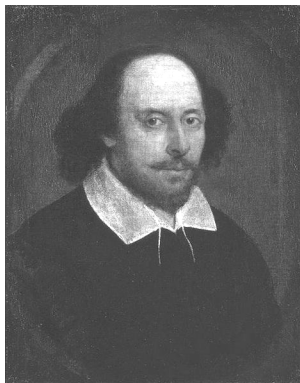
For each play a footnote-free narrative conveys, as in a modern novel, what the reader needs to know in order to understand the action, and makes clear where scenes are taking place, who is speaking, and what’s happening in the dramatic context.

Actors and directors, students and teachers, especially, will enjoy being able to read a full presentation of Shakespeare without the interruptions that mar experts’ editions, with their divided lines and scholarly apparatus—annotations more about obscure detail than meaning.

Each “novel” includes the play’s full speeches, from the long-standard 1864 Globe edition, “modernized a bit for today’s reader,” according to Paul W. Collins, who wrote the framing presentations. Italics and updated punctuation help to clarify the dialogue, which is displayed as prose rather than lines of poetry; and a few words whose meanings have changed since Shakespeare’s day are replaced by others he could have chosen—for example, *visor* is used instead of *beaver*, which was an Elizabethan/Jacobean term for that part of armor’s helmet.

“As the director, in effect, for his plays at the Globe just outside London, Shakespeare apparently had little interest in the dramas’ printed ‘text,’ but he would have cared very much how actors *performed* them on stage,” Collins said. “I think he’d approve of clearing away interruptions that interfere with our full, intense involvement.”

Launched in 2010, www.wsrightnow.com offers files at no charge for the plays *All’s Well That Ends Well*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *As You Like It*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Coriolanus*, *Cymbeline*, *Hamlet*, *Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2*, *Henry V*, *Henry VI, Parts 1, 2, and 3*, *Henry VIII*, *Julius Caesar*, *King John*, *King Lear*, *King Richard II*, *Love’s Labours Lost*, *Macbeth*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Othello*, *Pericles*, *Richard III*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Tempest*, *Timon of Athens*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and *The Winter’s Tale*.



Shakespeare *Right Now!*
The best way to read Shakespeare.