

# FOR THE LOVE OF SHAKESPEARE

## 1. SYNOPSIS

Present an overview of the play to set the scene.

Use a prose summary of the play containing known language to simply present the basic characters and plot points.

## 2. WATCH

Watch the full play performed, not an adaptation.

Experience the intended format of the original work.

## 3. READ

Read a text version of the Shakespeare play that presents the original verse alongside a modern language bridge.

## 4. DISCUSS

Time period (historical and play's setting)

Worldview & theme(s)

Poetry or prose construction

Common human condition

Truth, goodness, beauty

## 5. EXPAND

Act out scenes or watch another production or a film adaptation of the play.

Discuss how the themes, characters, and purposes were consistent or modified by the adaptation, the directorial choices, or an actor's portrayal.

Compare and contrast.



# SHAKESPEARE RESOURCES

## Unabridged play texts for the students:

No Fear Shakespeare editions (side-by-side modern English)

Oxford School Shakespeare editions (detailed notes, explanations, illustrations)

Folger Shakespeare Library editions (rich commentary notes & summaries)

## Book resources for the teacher:

\*Shakespeare's Christian Dimension edited by Roy Battenhouse

\*Shakespeare and the Bible (Oxford Shakespeare Topics) by Steven Marx

\*Shakespeare and the Idea of Western Civilization by R.V. Young

Asimov's Guide to Shakespeare

The Norton Shakespeare by Stephen Greenblatt

Shakespeare the Invention of the Human by Harold Bloom

Shakespeare After All by Marjorie Garber

Podcast basics for story, language, characters: *Shakespeare for All* (Lyceum)

## Commentary with discussion questions for class:

\*Brightest Heaven of Invention: A Christian Guide to Six Shakespeare Plays by Peter Leithart

\*Great Stage of Fools: A Guide to Six Shakespeare Plays by Peter Leithart

\*Hamlet, Macbeth, Much Ado, & Othello (Worldview Editions) from Canon Classics

Center for Lit Ready Readers, questions for discussion (Julius Caesar)

## Video sources of staged productions:

Globe Player (from Globe Theater in London) <https://player.shakespearesglobe.com>

- Annual subscription or single title purchase models

Amazon: The Shakespeare's Globe Collections DVDs

Royal Shakespeare Company on Marquis TV through Amazon streaming or DVD

## Grand Tours:

**London** – Visit the Globe Theater in London. Even if there is not a performance, the tour is valuable.

**Stratford upon Avon** – Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) has three theaters in Stratford. Stratford also has Shakespeare's birthplace, schoolroom and guildhall, and church (Holy Trinity where he is buried).