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## More Tales from Shakespeare

Notes: Be sure to really know each character in bold but be careful to the fact that some secondary characters aren't mentioned. The text doesn't say the whole and detailed plot as well, this is just a short summary of the tale. This summary includes adapted versions.

### The Winter's Tale

**Leontes** becomes jealous for no reason convincing himself that **Hermione** has been unfaithful with **Polixenes**, and that **Perdita** is theirs. Ignoring all advice, he seems to have destroyed wife, son, and daughter. Some generations later, **Perdita** is found. Her marriage to **Polixenes' son** and **Hermione's** miraculous survival sets things right between **Leontes** and **Hermione**, despite the tragic death of **their young son**.

### King Lear

**Lear** decides to abdicate and divide his kingdom between **Goneril**, **Regan** and **Cordelia**. He asks each other in turn how much they love him. **Goneril** and **Regan** reply with fine words and are rewarded with generous amounts of land and property. But **Cordelia** refuses to flatter her father. Instead, she says she loves him as much as she should. **Lear** is furious and disinherits her. Later, when he is dependent on **Goneril** and **Regan**, he realizes that their words had been meaningless. They treat him increasingly badly until finally he is abandoned altogether and forced to live outdoors.

**Lear** goes through the torment of madness before he is reunited with **Cordelia**. Eventually, **Lear's** evil daughters are killed and both **Lear** and **Cordelia** die as well.

### The Taming of the Shrew

"Taming" is the same as "domesticando"; "Shrew" can be used to talk about wives that don't obey and are constantly angry at their husbands.

### Characters

- Baptista, a rich gentleman of Padua
- Vincentio, an old man gentleman
- Lucentio, son of Vincentio; in love with Bianca
- Petruchio, a gentleman of Verona; later, the husband of Katharine
- Hortensio, a gentleman of Padua
- A dressmaker
- A hat-maker
- Katherine, the Shrew; Baptista's daughter
- Bianca, Baptista's daughter
- Hortensio's wife

### Story

Petruchio, an adventurer, marries Baptista's daughter, Katherine, who was known as the Shrew, because she had a violent temper and was always mad and shouting with other people. He had the aim to tame Katherine and transform her into a submissive wife. To do that, he prevented her from eating and sleeping, but always said that he was doing this for love. Petruchio promised he would give her a dress and a hat, but as always, he said that it wasn't good enough for Katherine, which was a lie.

One night, they went to Baptista's house, in Padua, where there were three couples: Petruchio and Katherine, Lucentio and Bianca (they could only get married if Katherine married first, because she was the oldest sister) and Hortensio and his wife. These three men made a bet of a hundred crowns to see who the most obedient wife was, calling each one separately and seeing who would come faster. At the end, Bianca and Hortensio's wife said they were busy and couldn't come, on the other hand, Katherine surprisingly was the only one who obeyed her husband. Later, she was no longer known as Katherine the Shrew, but Katherine, the most obedient wife in Padua.

### Romeo and Juliet

The Capulets and the Montagues were two very rich families from Verona, that were very strong enemies. One day the Capulets gave supper where all families were invited except, of course, of the Montagues. Romeo, son of Lord Montague, went anyways, seeking the love of Rosaline, a young and beautiful woman. Using a mask so no one would recognize him, Romeo went dancing, until his eyes were caught by a delicate and mesmerizing woman. After going and talking to her, he felt in a completely and irrational love for the only person he was prohibited to love Juliet, the young daughter of Lord Capulet. After the supper was done and Romeo was going back home, he felt an urge to see his loved one once again. He jumped the wall and sat there, behind the bushes, listening to Juliet. She started talking about him and love, unaware of his presence. After some time, Romeo revealed himself, after hearing with his own ears that she loved him. After exchanging sweet words, they both agreed that if Romeo's love was as honorable as he claimed, she would send a messenger the next day to arrange the marriage.

The next day, the young man contacted Friar Lawrence, that after being persuaded by Romeo, agreed on performing the ceremony. Having sent the messenger promised by Juliet back with the message, the young Capulet didn't take long to arrive and. They both got married. Romeo saw Benvolio and Mercutio, two friends of his, arguing with Tybalt, Lord Capulet's nephew. Angry because Romeo had secretly entered to supper the other day, Tybalt swore him, and a quarrel was started. After insulting him, Mercutio got Tybalt to fight him first. He died and Romeo, who wanted no harm to Tybalt, got extremely angry, getting his sword, and killing him. The news got spread fast and the situation was so bad that the Prince of Verona himself had to come. He listened to both sides carefully and furthermore decided to punish Romeo, ordering him to leave Verona. This was an extreme shock to poor Juliet, who cried a lot in both grief for his cousin and sadness at his loved one expulsion.

Romeo stayed with Friar Lawrence, who convinced him to not feel miserable, as the prince had been very light at his punishment, only banning him and not sentencing him to death. The friar advised him to say goodbye to Juliet until he could meet her again. And that's what he did. Leaving as the sun rose, Romeo went to Mantua and start his exile.

In the same week, Lord Capulet found a husband to Juliet, unknown that she already had one. Paris was a young, noble, and rich man, the only one suitable to marry her. Being in love with Romeo, Juliet couldn't think of a worst destiny. She was so desperate to escape the marriage that she went on with a crazy plan articulated by the friar, who sympathized with her situation. She would take a medicine that would make her seem dead for 42 hours, and after all those hours, Romeo would come to rescue and take her to Mantua. She did accordingly and as expect, all the Capulets were in grief the other day, thinking their only heir had been taken by death just the day before the ceremony. Bad news traveled faster than the friar's plans, so at Mantua, Romeo received the message that his loved one had died. He wanted to see her one last time and before going to Verona one last time, the young man bought poison so he could be buried at her side. When he got there and started digging, he was confronted by Paris. Thinking the Montague was vandalizing the grave, Paris started calling him criminal and fought him. Once again, Romeo emerged victoriously, and briefly after opening Juliet's coffin, he drank the poison and died. Juliet, whose medicine effect had finally, woke up surrounded by Paris and Romeo's dead bodies. Being not able to live without him, she took his knife and killed herself. Friar Lawrence told the story to Lord Montague, Lord Capulet, and the prince.

## **Hamlet, Prince of Denmark**

After 2 months of King Hamlet's death, his wife Gertrude and brother Claudius got married. Claudius was a terrible person, so he's suspected to be responsible for the death of his brother to steal his wife and kingdom. But he claimed that he was bitten by a snake. Hamlet got into a deep state of sadness. What disturbed him the most was how his mother could quickly forget about his father, he was totally against Gertrude's remarriage. Rumors began that a ghost identical to his father had been seen at midnight in the palace by the soldiers. When night came, Hamlet joined his friends Horatio and Marcellus (one night of the guards), at the appearance of the ghost he was scared, but he had the courage to call him. After a while, Hamlet was left alone with the ghost who assumes that he really is King Hamlet's ghost. He says that Claudius was the one who killed him by poison. In addition, he tells his son to get revenge for what happened, without hurting his former wife. Before the current events, Hamlet was in love with a girl named Ophelia, daughter of Polonius (the king's chief minister). But he began to forget about her, treating her with disrespect. After a while, he realized his mistake, so he wrote a letter declaring his love for her. Ophelia immediately showed it to her father, who came to believe that the reason of Hamlet's anger was love, however Ophelia's beauty and kindness would bring him back to normal. Many actors who gave Hamlet pleasure started coming to the palace.

In one visit the death of king of Troy was described, he asked his friend to tell the story again, moving the feelings of everyone who heard it. He remembered plays that touch so much with feelings, with make people confess their mistakes, so he ordered the realization of one. Throughout the performance Claudius was so nervous that he interrupted the play and went away. The queen had asked to speak to Hamlet to understand his behavior, but before Polonius had hidden behind the bedroom curtain at the queen's request. With Hamlet's arrival, Gertrude discus with him, calling Claudius his father. Then, the two began to argue with each other. Polonius yells asking for someone to help the queen, Hamlet thought it was Claudius, so he stabs the guy, only when he went to see who it was did, he discovers his identity. The fight continued, getting worse, the ghost of King Hamlet enters the room to remember the revenge that had been promised. Furthermore, Gertrude thought that her son's anger was the reason for the ghost's coming. After Polonius' death, Hamlet was sent out of the kingdom, being sent on a ship to England. Claudius sent letters to the head of the England court, saying that Hamlet should be killed at the second he arrived. But Hamlet found the letters, changing his name to that of two men who were with him. Sometime later the ship was attacked, taking Hamlet hostage. What he didn't expect was that, upon knowing Hamlet's identity, the navigators took him to his homeland. When he arrived, he saw the funeral of Ophelia, who died when she was climbing a tree and a branch broke

causing her to drown in the water. Claudius planned to use Laertes' (Ophelia's brother) rage to destroy Hamlet, having him called to a sword fight. On it, Laertes' sword was poisoned but Hamlet suspected nothing.

At first, they 2 fought calmly, but Laertes became more aggressive, passing the sword thought him, then Hamlet fought more violently. The queen arrived screaming that she had been poisoned, as she accidentally drank a drink that had been prepared for Hamlet in case he asked for a drink. Hamlet asked for the doors to be closed. Laertes told him about the poisoned sword and that he had less than an hour to live. Knowing of his death, Hamlet sent the sword at his uncle, accomplishing his promise. Also, he said to Horatio, who knew everything that had happened, to write a story. So, Hamlet dies, leaving his kingdom.

## Othello

### Characters

- Brabantio, a senator
- Othello, a noble Moor in the service of the state of Venice
- Cassio, his lieutenant
- Iago, an officer
- Montano, another officer
- Desdemona, daughter of Brabantio, and wife of Othello
- Emilia, wife of Iago

### Story

Many men wanted to marry Desdemona, because of her qualities and her money, but she didn't find desire at the lovers of her own country or color, therefore, she married a Moor (black man), who her father liked. Her husband, Othello, seemed very attractive, he was a soldier who fought against the Turks and was promoted to general, he was very trusted and respected. He travelled a lot and Desdemona liked hearing his stories and the great thing he had seen. Once she asked to hear the story of his whole life and felt all his experiences as her own. And she told him that if a man loved her, he only needed to know how to tell a story to win her.

Understanding what she meant, he asked her to marry him. The marriage wasn't well taken by her father, because of his color and fortune. And even though they had a secret marriage, it wasn't kept like that for long. Soon enough, Brabantio found out and wasn't happy about it. Othello needed to go to Venice, that needed his services, but Brabantio, still mad with Othello, tried to stop him, talking to his superiors, but Othello told how he won Desdemona heart, convincing his superiors that the only magic he used was telling a soft story to win a lady and Desdemona confirmed the statement. After that, Brabantio accept their marriage and Othello and his wife went to Cyprus where he was needed. When they arrived, they met a young man, Cassio, who would make an old man who married a young woman jealous, but it was the case with Othello. Cassio, Othello, and Desdemona had a great relationship. After that, Iago, an officer, didn't like Cassio and Othello, because he was jealous of Othello and his wife, Emilia. So, he decided to make Othello jealous of Cassio as revenge. So, Iago made Cassio drink a lot of wine and he soon began to praise Desdemona.

When he was already sobber, Iago told Othello what Cassio said to his wife, making him mad. Iago convinced Cassio that he should beg Desdemona for help to make peace with Othello and she accepted. Othello didn't like the idea, but after Desdemona argument it started to grow on him. Emilia steals Desdemona handkerchief, and Iago said that he saw Cassio with it. Very angry, Othello tells Desdemona about the object being enchanted. That night, while she sleeps, he kisses her, and then kills her. After Iago telling Othello the truth, he kills himself.

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