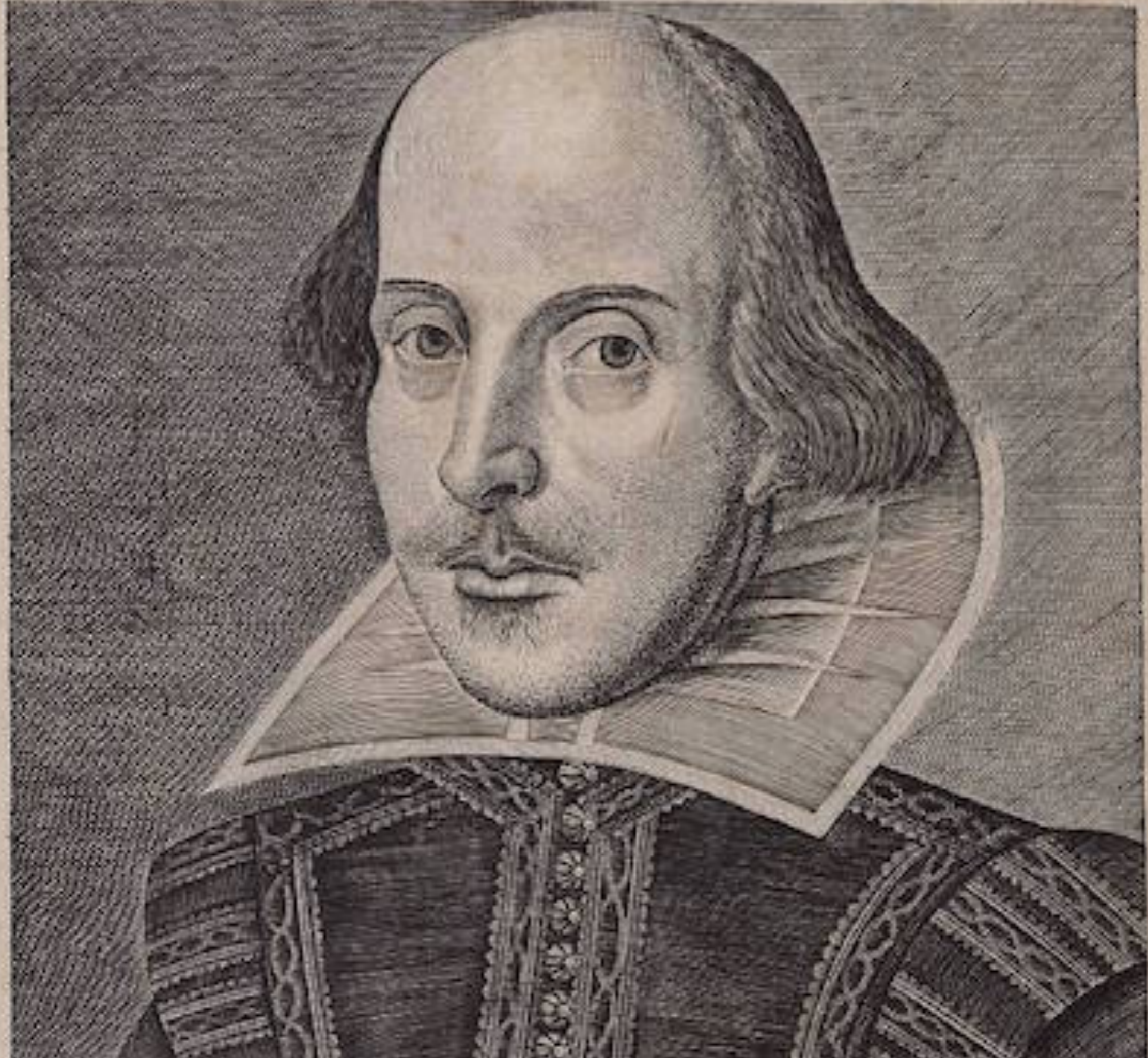


William Shakespeare

April 23, 1564

April 23, 1616



Principum

amicitias!



Shakespeare's Dramatic Achievement

Plays listed in chronological order of composition [dates assigned by editors]
Ratings by Arlene Okerlund, subject to argument and revision.

<u>Brilliant</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>O.K.</u>	<u>Terrible</u>
	<i>Two Gentlemen of Verona</i> [1590-91]	<i>2 Henry VI</i> [1591]	
	<i>Taming of the Shrew</i> [1592]	<i>3 Henry VI</i> [1592]	<i>Titus Andronicus</i> [1592]
<i>Richard III</i> [1592/3]		<i>1 Henry VI</i> [1592]	
	<i>Comedy of Errors</i>	<i>Edward III</i>	
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>		<i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>	
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>			
<i>Richard II</i>		<i>King John</i>	
<i>Merchant of Venice</i> [1594]		<i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i>	
<i>1 Henry IV</i>			
<i>2 Henry IV</i>			
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> [1598]			
<i>Henry V</i>			
<i>Julius Caesar</i>			
<i>As You Like It</i>			
<i>Hamlet, Prince of Denmark</i> [1600]			
<i>Twelfth Night</i>			
<i>Troilus and Cressida</i>			
<i>Measure for Measure</i>			
<i>Othello, the Moor of Venice</i> [1603-04]			
<i>All's Well That Ends Well</i>			<i>Timon of Athens</i>
<i>King Lear</i> [1605]			
<i>Macbeth</i>			
<i>Anthony and Cleopatra</i>		<i>Pericles, Prince of Tyre</i>	
<i>Coriolanus</i>			
<i>The Winter's Tale</i>			
<i>The Tempest</i> [1611]		<i>Cymbeline</i> [1610]	
		<i>Henry VIII (All Is True)</i> [1613]	
		<i>Two Noble Kinsmen</i> [1613-14]	

Possible authorship: *Cardenio, or The Double Falsehood* by Shakespeare and John Fletcher.

All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages.

AYLI 2.7.138-42

Infant

Whining schoolboy

Lover

Soldier

Justice

“Lean and slippered pantaloan”

“Second childishness and mere oblivion”

Imagery, diction (especially verbs)

[describes/creates character]

Richard III: Margaret of Anjou speaking to Richard's mother, the Duchess of York:

From forth the kennel of thy womb hath crept
A hell-hound that doth hunt us all to death:
That dog that had his teeth before his eyes,
To worry lambs and lap their gentle blood;
That foul defacer of God's handiwork....

[*R III*, 4.4.47-51]

Repetition, alliteration, rhythm

Richard's soliloquy after wooing Anne, whose husband and father-in-law were just killed by him:

Was ever woman in such humour wooed?
Was ever woman in such humor won?
I'll have her, but I will not keep her long.

[*R III*, 1.2.228-30]

Diction, syntax, imagery [character differentiation]

(Hamlet contemplating suicide)

To be, or not to be, that is the question:
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles
And by opposing end them. To die—to sleep,
No more; and by a sleep to say we end
The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks
That flesh is heir to: 'tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wish'd. To die, to sleep;
To sleep, perchance to dream—ay, there's the rub:...

[*Hamlet* 3.1.58-65]

(The gravedigger in response to the question:

"How long will a man lie in the earth ere he rot?")

"Faith, if 'a be not rotten before 'a die--as we have
many pocky corpses nowadays, that will scarce hold
the laying in----'a will last you some eight year or nine
year. A tanner will last you nine year....his hide is so
tann'd with his trade that 'a will keep out water a great
while, and your water is a sore decayer of your
whoreson dead body. Here's a skull now. This skull
hath lain in the earth three and twenty years.

[*Hamlet* 5.1.152-55]

Diction, syntax, imagery

Macbeth after the murder of Duncan, looking at his hands:

Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood
Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will rather
The multitudinous seas incarnadine,
Making the green one red.

[*Macbeth* 2.2.58-61]

Diction, alliteration, imagery, repetition

Macbeth, upon hearing of Lady Macbeth's death:

Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day
To the last syllable of recorded time,
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle.

[*Macbeth* 5.5.18-22]

Imagery [= Truth, Wisdom]

Prince Hal viewing the dead body of Hotspur:

Ill-weaved ambition, how much art thou shrunk!
When that this body did contain a spirit,
A kingdom for it was too small a bound,
But now two paces of the vilest earth
Is room enough.

[I Henry IV 5.4.87-91]

Diction, syntax

Falstaff contemplating honour:

What is honour? A word. What is in that word
'honour'? What is that 'honour'? Air. A trim reckoning!
Who hath it? He that died o'Wednesday. Doth he feel
it? No. Doth he hear it? No. 'Tis insensible then?
Yea, to the dead. But will it not live with the living? No.
Why? Detraction will not suffer it. Therefore I'll none of
it. Honour is a mere scutcheon. And so ends my
catechism.

[I Henry IV 5.1.133-39]

Diction, syntax [detailed observation of country
wisdom]

Old Shephard hunting his sheep in a storm (after
Antigonus exited, pursued by a bear):

I would there were no age between ten and three-and-
twenty, or that youth would sleep out the rest; for there
is nothing in the between but getting wenches with
child, wronging the ancientry, stealing, fighting---hark
you now, would any but these boiled brains of nineteen
and two-and-twenty hunt this weather?

[Winter's Tale 3.3.58-63]

Diction, alliteration, imagery

Prospero, after the masque celebrating the
marriage of Miranda and Ferdinand:

Our revels now are ended....

.
We are such stuff

As dreams are made on, and our little life
Is rounded with a sleep.

[*Tempest* 4.1.148-57]



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