GENERAL

list of william shakespeare plays

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Shakespeare's Legacy & the Enduring Power of His Plays

William Shakespeare is often hailed as the greatest playwright in the history of English literature. His works have transcended time, language, and culture, becoming staples of classrooms, theatres, and popular media worldwide. Whether you are a seasoned scholar, a casual reader, or a newcomer curious about his oeuvre, the **list of William Shakespeare plays**offers a roadmap to explore the breadth and depth of his genius. This guide will walk you through the full catalog, categorize his works, highlight key titles, and provide practical tips for reading and appreciating his masterpieces.

The Complete List of William Shakespeare Plays

Shakespeare wrote approximately 37 plays during his career, spanning from the early 1590s to the early 1610s. Scholars agree on a core set of works, while a few plays have disputed authorship or collaborative origins. Below is an organized, genre based list of his plays, followed by a short synopsis for each major category.

Categorized by Genre

- Hamlet (1603)
- Macbeth (1606)
- Othello (1604)
- King Lear (1605)
- Romeo and Juliet (1595)
- Titus Andronicus (1600)
- Antony and Cleopatra (1606)
- Julius Caesar (1599)
- Julius Caesar (1602) – Alternative title
- Measure for Measure (1604)
- King John (1606)
- Richard III (1592)
- Henry IV, Part 1 & Part 2 (1597–1598)
- Henry V (1599)
- Henry VI, Parts 1–3 (1590–1591)
- Henry VIII (1613)
- Richard II (1592)
- Henry I (1601)
- Henry VII (1604)
- Henry VIII (1613)
- Henry VI, Part 3 (1590)
- Henry V (1599)

- A Midsummer Night's Dream (1595)
- Twelfth Night (1602)
- The Merchant of Venice (1600)
- The Taming of the Shrew (1590)

- Love's Labour's Lost (1598)
- All's Well That Ends Well (1600)
- Measure for Measure (1604)
- Pericles, Prince of Tyre (1608)
- The Comedy of Errors (1594)
- Much Ado About Nothing (1598)
- As You Like It (1599)
- Romeo and Juliet (1595)
- The Merry Wives of Windsor (1600)
- The Two Gentlemen of Verona (1594)
- Henry IV, Part 1 & Part 2 (1597–1598)
- Henry V (1599)
- Henry VI, Parts 1–3 (1590–1591)
- Henry VIII (1613)
- Richard II (1592)
- Henry I (1601)
- Henry VII (1604)
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- Henry VIII (1613)
- Henry I (1601)
- Henry VII (1604)
- Henry VIII (1613)
- Henry VI, Part 3 (1590)
- Henry V (1599)

- The Tempest (1610)
- Pericles, Prince of Tyre (1608)
- Love's Labour's Lost (1598)
- King John (1606)
- King Henry IV (1597–1598)
- King Henry V (1599)
- King Henry VIII (1613)
- King Richard II (1592)
- King Richard III (1592)
- King Henry VI (1590–1591)
- King Henry VII (1604)
- King Henry VIII (1613)
- King Henry VI (1590)
- King Henry V (1599)

- Sir John Oldcastle (1594) – possibly co authored

- The Two Noble Kinsmen (1613) – collaboration with John Fletcher
- Henry VIII (1613) – some debate over complete authorship
- Pericles, Prince of Tyre (1608) – early draft may involve other writers

Highlighting Shakespeare’s Masterpieces

Below are brief synopses of the most celebrated plays across each genre, offering a snapshot of why they continue to captivate audiences.

1. Hamlet – A prince of Denmark grapples with revenge, madness, and existential dread after his father's murder.
2. Macbeth – Ambition, prophecy, and guilt drive a Scottish general to tyrannical rule, culminating in a tragic downfall.
3. Othello – A Moorish general’s love is corrupted by jealousy, orchestrated by a treacherous ensign, leading to a fatal climax.
4. King Lear – A king’s attempt to divide his realm based on flattery triggers betrayal, madness, and tragedy.
5. Romeo and Juliet – A star crossed romance between two young lovers from feuding families ends in a double suicide.
6. Titus Andronicus – A Roman general’s revenge spirals into a cycle of violence and bloodshed.
7. Antony and Cleopatra – Political ambition and passionate love collide in a tragic tale of empire and personal loss.
8. Julius Caesar – The assassination of a Roman leader, the ensuing power struggle, and the moral questions of loyalty and justice.
9. Measure for Measure – A moral experiment in justice, mercy, and sexual politics within a corrupt city.

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