

Shakespeare Reference

Play	Modern Classification	Historical & Geographical Setting	Considerations :: Movie Adaptation	Age Recommended for Reading
1. All's Well That Ends Well	Comedy <i>Problem Play</i>	France & Florence, Italy	* Qualities of youth and age explored Adaptations: * 1981, BBC * 1968, TV, UK * 1978, TV, US	
2. Antony and Cleopatra	Tragedy Roman	Ancient Rome Alexandria, Rome	* Roman Empire * Enduring love Adaptations: * 1972, Charlton Heston * 1974, Patrick Stewart, Ben Kingsley	
3. As You Like It	Comedy		* The heroine, Rosalind, is persecuted in her Uncle's court Adaptations: * <i>Shakespeare: The Animated Tales</i> * 1912, J. Stuart Blackton * 1915, UK, <i>Love In a Wood</i> * 1936, Paul Czinner * 1992, Christine Edzard	
4. The Comedy of Errors	Comedy	A street in Ephesus, Ancient Greece	* Family loyalty with themes of love and relationships * Appearance and reality (recurring theme of Shakespeare plays) * Plot is complicated, but the play is easy to follow because of the rhyme * Unfamiliar word order * Words with different meaning * Puns or Wordplay Adaptations: * 1940, US musical adaptation, <i>The Boys From Syracuse</i> * 1978, Judi Dench & Francesca Annis	Elem/Jr. High (7 - 12)
5. Coriolanus	Tragedy Roman	Ancient Rome	* Based on the life of legendary Roman leader Caius Marcius Coriolanus Adaptations: * Released as part of <i>The Complete Dramatic Works of William Shakespeare</i> , originally BBC Television, 1984	

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6. Cymbeline	Tragedy Romance Tragicomedy		* Based on legends of the early Celtic British King, Cunobelinus * Themes: innocence, jealousy Adaptations: * 1913, US * 1982, BBC Television	
7. Hamlet	Tragedy		* Themes: madness, manipulation, appearance and reality, revenge, politics, love vs duty, * Hamlet's flaw is his inability to act. This costs his life, his mother's life, Denmark her king. Adaptations: * <i>Shakespeare: The Animated Tales</i> * 1948, Lawrence Olivier * 1964, Richard Burton * 1964, Grigori Kozintsev * 1980, Patrick Stewart (BBC) * 1991, Franco Zeffirelli * 1996, Kenneth Branagh, Judi Dench, Kate Winslet	High School
8. Henry IV (Part 1)	History Plantagenet	Middle Ages	* A history play * Span of history - 1402-1403 * Second in a series of history plays Adaptations: * BBC television series, <i>An Age of Kings</i> * 1960 miniseries, <i>Age of Kings</i> * 1965, Orson Welles, <i>Chimes at Midnight</i> (combines the two Henry IV plays)	
9. Henry IV (Part 2)	History Plantagenet	Middle Ages	* Third in a series of history plays * Picks up where Part 1 left off Adaptations: * BBC television series, <i>An Age of Kings</i> * 1965, <i>The War of the Roses</i> , John Barton and Peter Hall (directors)	
10. Henry VIII	History Masque		Adaptations: * Released as part of <i>The Complete Dramatic Works of William Shakespeare</i> , originally BBC Television, 1984	

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11. Henry VI (Part 1)	History		Adaptations: * BBC television series, <i>An Age of Kings</i> * 1965, <i>The War of the Roses</i> , John Barton and Peter Hall (directors)	
12. Henry VI (Part 2)	History		Adaptations: * BBC television series, <i>An Age of Kings</i> * 1965, <i>The War of the Roses</i> , John Barton and Peter Hall (directors)	
13. Henry VI (Part 3)	History		Adaptations: * BBC television series, <i>An Age of Kings</i> * 1965, <i>The War of the Roses</i> , John Barton and Peter Hall (directors)	
14. Henry V	History Plantagenet	Middle Ages	* Theme: Does Henry change for the better? On the surface, Shakespeare wants us to believe so, but if we look to Henry's actions and not his words, we see that sincere change has not occurred. Henry is self-absorbed and self-indulgent. * Shakespeare emphasizes Henry's hypocrisy through play on words. Adaptations: * 1945, Lawrence Olivier * 1989, Kenneth Branagh * Released as part of <i>The Complete Dramatic Works of William Shakespeare</i> , originally BBC Television, 1984	High School
15. Julius Caesar	Tragic/Comedy Problem Play	Ancient Rome	Adaptations: * <i>Shakespeare: The Animated Tales</i> * 1953, Joseph Mankiewicz * 1950, David Bradley (director) * 1970, Charlton Heston * Released as part of <i>The Complete Dramatic Works of William Shakespeare</i> , originally BBC Television, 1984	Elem/Jr. High (7 - 12)
16. King John	History		Adaptations: * Released as part of <i>The Complete Dramatic Works of William Shakespeare</i> , originally BBC Television, 1984	

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17. King Lear	Tragedy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Asks the question: What is a man? Adaptations: * 1970, Peter Brook * 1970, Grigori Kozintsev * 1985, Akira Kurosawa (based on King Lear) 	High School
18. Love's Labours Lost	Comedy		Adaptations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 2000, Kenneth Branagh 	
19. Macbeth	Tragedy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * MacBeth acts on his own ambition; a tragic hero - he begins the play good, but struggles and is overcome by his own ambition, his wife's ambition and scorn, with the end result tragedy and evil. * Lady MacBeth's character shows what results from descending to evil - madness, sickness of the mind. * Deceit is common * Shakespeare explores fate and free will Adaptations: * <i>Shakespeare: The Animated Tales</i> * 1948, Orson Welles * 1954, US TV special, George Shaefer (director) * 1972, Roman Polanski 	High School
20. Measure for Measure	Comedy <i>Problem Play</i>		Adaptations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 1979, BBC Television * 1995, David Thacker (director) 	
21. The Merchant of Venice	Comedy Tragicomedy <i>Problem Play</i>		Adaptations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 1922, UK * 1973, US, John Sichel (director) * 1980, BBC Television 	High School
22. The Merry Wives of Windsor	Comedy		Adaptations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 1982, Ben Kingsley (BBC) 	

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23. A Midsummer Night's Dream	Comedy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Themes: love, loss of identity, * Play within a play * Adventures of four Athenian lovers * Wedding of the Duke of Theseus * Interactions of the fairies Adaptations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <i>Shakespeare: The Animated Tales</i> * 1935, Max Reinhardt, William Dieterle * 1999, Calista Flockhart, Michelle Pfeiffer 	Elem/Jr. High (7 - 12)
24. Much Ado About Nothing	Comedy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Comedy of errors * Themes: Gossip, social norms, infidelity, love (romantic and familial), platonic love, obligation, deceit Adaptations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 1993, Kenneth Branagh 	Elem/Jr. High (7 - 12)
25. Othello	Tragedy		Adaptations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <i>Shakespeare: The Animated Tales</i> * 1952, Orson Welles * 1956, Sergei Jutkevitch * 1965, UK, Laurence Olivier 	
26. Pericles	Romance		Adaptations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Released as part of <i>The Complete Dramatic Works of William Shakespeare</i>, originally BBC Television, 1984 	
27. Richard II	History Plantagenet	Middle Ages	Adaptations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Released as part of <i>The Complete Dramatic Works of William Shakespeare</i>, originally BBC Television, 1984 * BBC television series, <i>An Age of Kings</i> * 1965, <i>The War of the Roses</i>, John Barton and Peter Hall (directors) * 1967, Orson Welles, <i>Chimes at Midnight</i> 	

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28. Richard III	History		Adaptations: * <i>Shakespeare: The Animated Tales</i> * 1955, Lawrence Olivier * Released as part of <i>The Complete Dramatic Works of William Shakespeare</i>, originally BBC Television, 1984 * BBC television series, <i>An Age of Kings</i> * 1965, <i>The War of the Roses</i>, John Barton and Peter Hall (directors)	
29. Romeo & Juliet	Tragedy		* Sexual language * Death & suicide Adaptations: * <i>Shakespeare: The Animated Tales</i> * 1935, George Kukor * 1954, Renato Castellani * 1968, Franco Zeffirelli * 1990, Francesca Annis, Vanessa Redgrave, Ben Kingsley * 1996, Leonardo Di Caprio, Claire Danes	Upper Middle High School 12 +
30. The Taming of the Shrew	Comedy	Setting 1: England Setting 2: Padua, Italy	* A play within a play * Explores the relationship between men and women * Money, greed, dowries * Nothing is what it seems to be Adaptations: * <i>Shakespeare: The Animated Tales</i> * 1929, Douglas Fairbanks & Mary Pickford * 1967, Elizabeth Taylor & Richard Burton * 1948, <i>Kiss Me Kate</i>, Howard Keel	High School
31. The Tempest	Romance		* Themes: familial and romantic love, revenge, freedom, justice, mercy Adaptations: * <i>Shakespeare: The Animated Tales</i> * 1956, Fred Wilcox (based on <i>The Tempest</i>) * 1960, Richard Burton * 1982, Paul Mazursky * 1991, Peter Greenway (based on -- <i>Prospero's Books</i>)	Elem/Jr. High (7 - 12)

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32. Timon of Athens	Problem Play		Adaptations: * Released as part of The Complete Dramatic Works of William Shakespeare, originally BBC Television, 1984	
33. Titus Andronicus	Tragedy		Adaptations: * Released as part of The Complete Dramatic Works of William Shakespeare, originally BBC Television, 1984 * 1999, <i>Titus</i> , Anthony Hopkins	
34. Troilus & Cressida	Problem Play		* Violence * Pre-marital & Extra-marital relations * Complex moral situations Adaptations: * Released as part of The Complete Dramatic Works of William Shakespeare, originally BBC Television, 1984	
35. Twelfth Night	Comedy		* Themes: Familial love, pride, foolishness, wit * Though a comedy, there are dark elements. Adaptations: * <i>Shakespeare: The Animated Tales</i> * 1910, Eugene Mullin and Charles Kent (directors) * 1996, Helena Bonham Carter, Ben Kingsley	Elem/Jr. High (7 - 12)
36. The Two Gentlemen of Verona	Comedy		Adaptations: * Released as part of <i>The Complete Dramatic Works of William Shakespeare</i> , originally BBC Television, 1984	
37. The Winter's Tale	Romance Tragicomedy <i>Problem Play</i>		Adaptations: * <i>Shakespeare: The Animated Tales</i> * Released as part of The Complete Dramatic Works of William Shakespeare, originally BBC Television, 1984	

* Problem Plays - Don't have a happy ending and don't have a tragic ending either. The protagonist is not tragic or comic.