

Why Shakespeare?

What is it that makes William Shakespeare's work so important that it is still taught after 500 years? The widespread impact of Shakespeare lies in his own decisions. Shakespeare is an essential aspect of learning because he pushed boundaries of literature in order to pave the way that we approach writing. His influence has changed almost all aspects of language in culture today.

What William Shakespeare did that was so different was that he wrote for a different purpose than most other writers at the time, especially through his plays. His plays were written for anyone to be able to watch and connect with. This wasn't a very common idea at the time, as most theatrical performances were made for the very wealthy upper class. He pushed the expectations of a playwright so that anyone could experience his stories. These plays featured characters of many different interests and he was able to attract a wide audience because of that. His written work was easily understood, and his stories were creative and captivating.

In the 1500s, there were many strong pressures to conform to societal standards. Shakespeare didn't let any boundaries stop him from doing what he loved. His writing was unlike any that had been seen before because there was such a strong form of relatability in his work. His devotion to his craft is what made him stand out from others at the time.

Shakespeare had huge influence over his audience at the time, which is proven through his vocabulary. When there wasn't a word in the English language to convey his feelings, he would simply make one up. He created around 2000 words and phrases, and many are still used today. This goes to show the influence that he had over the people around him. Many of these words, such as eyeball or Dalmatian, stuck with the audience and was easily understandable in his stories.

The literary work of Shakespeare serves as an important example of influence and innovation. By breaking past boundaries, Shakespeare grew a following, and his published works are read and performed hundreds of years after him. We learn about Shakespeare to allow us to reflect on his influence and to follow in the footsteps of his legacy.