Shakespeare’s Most Popular Quotes Today

By Amanda Wilk

It is difficult to pinpoint Shakespeare’s most famous or popular quotes because there are so many to choose from. The quotes here are those that many people today have heard or even recited in everyday life. They are quotes that have become such an integral part of mainstream culture that today many may not even realize they are hearing the words of Shakespeare. They can be used to demonstrate the continued relevance of Shakespeare today, as these words are not ancient theatrical relics, but can be heard spoken in everyday life.

To be or not to be that is the question
Hamlet

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
As You Like It

Be not afraid of greatness. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them.
Twelfth Night

If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we
not die? And if you wrong us, shall we not revenge?
The Merchant of Venice

If music be the food of love, play on.
Twelfth Night

Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears
Julius Caesar

What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.
Romeo and Juliet

We are such stuff as dreams are made on; and our little life is rounded with a sleep.
The Tempest

Et tu, Brute?
Julius Caesar

The play's the thing
Hamlet

I am fortune's fool
Romeo and Juliet

All that glisters is not gold
The Merchant of Venice

This above all: to thine own self be true
Hamlet

Shakespeare’s Plays for Teens

By Ashley Levy

Those who have tried to teach the Bard’s plays to a teenaged audience or to a high school class are all too aware of how painful those lessons can be. Many teens only see the plays in a text heavy, incomprehensible format, and are turned off when they don’t immediately understand.

What is needed in the classroom is an accessible version of the plays that still manages to capture the essence of the playwright. Most Shakespeare texts that cover the plays provide a glossary for words that are no longer in frequent use, but even that often does not make it easy for most to understand what is actually happening in a scene.

References

http://shakespeare.about.com/od/triviaquizzes/a/Famous_Shakespeare_Quotes.htm

enotes (2011). Shakespeare Quotes: 200+
Bardisms. Retrieved from:
http://www.enotes.com/shakespeare-quotes