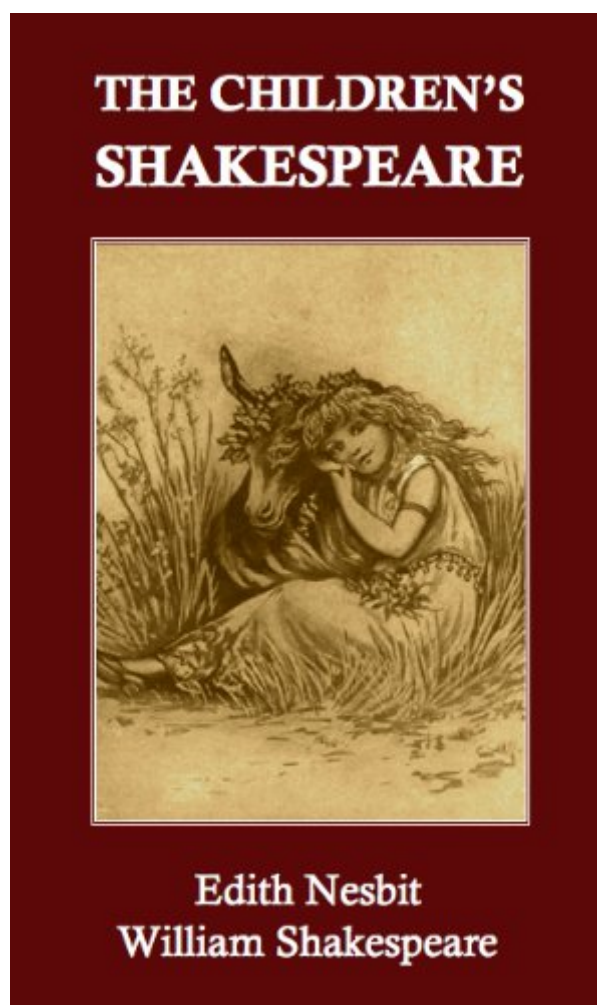


The book was found

The Children's Shakespeare



Synopsis

Originally published in 1900, this book retells, in simple, everyday prose, twelve of Shakespeare's plays. Review: "To families who want to share their Shakespeare with children, this book would make a good beginning." Commonweal

CONTENTS

Romeo and Juliet
The Tempest
A Midsummer Night's Dream
King Lear
Cymbeline
The Taming of the Shrew
Hamlet
Twelfth Night
As You Like It
Pericles
The Merchant of Venice
The Winter's Tale

About the Author: Edith Nesbit (1858-1924) was a British author who wrote many books for children, including "The Story of the Treasure Seekers" and "The Wouldbegoods."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The stories are quite short as mentioned above, but still wonderful. And yet, I would not have minded a little more meat, even for the young listeners & readers. I look at these stories as a whetting of the appetite and mental preparation for the real and better thing. One of my frustrations while trying to decide whether or not I should purchase this book was the lack of a complete list of the "plays" contained in the collection. I want to share them with you along with short notes regarding how they appear in the book: The Winter's Tale: 8 pages, with a little over 2 pages of

dialogue. Romeo and Juliet: 10 pages, about 2 pages of dialog. The Tempest: 4 page long synopsis, with good summary quote at the end. A Midsummer Night's Dream: 7 pages with about 4 pages of dialogue. King Lear: 8 pages with about 2 pages of dialogue. Cymbeline: 8 pages with about 6 pages of dialogue. The Taming of the Shrew: 9 pages, 5 pages of dialogue. Hamlet: 8 pages, 2 and a half of dialogue. Twelfth Night: 8 pages, 7 of dialogue. As You Like It: 8 pages, 5 of dialogue. Pericles: 8 pages, 1 of dialogue. Basically a synopsis.

I read and reread this book as a youth. The stories read much like classic fairy tales with tragedy, irony, and moral lessons. The writing is very accessible and encouraged me to seek out the full length "stories" in their original (play script) form once I was old enough (6th/7th grade) to really read them. For a child who has a love of literature, these retellings of the great plays may start a life-long interest in Shakespeare's art (as they did for me).

This book provides lots of Shakespeare's Storys like "A Midsummer's Night Dream" and "Hamlet" with a children's fairy tale twist. The storys are the same as Shakespeare's, but easier for children to understand. My favorite story was Hamlet because I had just seen the play. A while after we read Children's Shakespeare and it helped me to understand Hamlet better.

Beautifully read with passion. The stories come alive with the terrific narration and emotion. The backround music adds a special quality, and flows effortlessly with the stories. For those who never thought they could understand or appreciate The Bard don't miss out on this. This Shakespeare is easy to comprehend. It also includes many expected quotes even though it is abridged. If you want your children to be "culture literate", this is a must for any collection.

This book is loads of fun! I bought it for my third grader, who is taking a field trip to see "Romeo and Juliet." I wanted him to have some familiarity with the storyline so he wouldn't be yawning cluelessly by the end of Act I. He loved it so much he wanted to discuss it! Even my husband who hates to read the stuff enjoyed it. In short, the book is well done. It shortens the plays into a very long story-summary without the dramatic language that can be somewhat of a distraction. We're not talking Cliff's Notes here folks. This is just a handful of pages per play written on a level anyone can understand and enjoy. The book is not long so it's not intimidating. (Have you seen any books containing Shakespeare's complete works, lately? Mine could be used for a doorstop! It's huge!) We paired this book with the comedy of "The Reduced Shakespeare Company's" version of Romeo and

Juliet. My son is actually looking forward to the trip!

Of course this book is no substitute for Shakespeare, but I don't think it's meant to be. What it does is break down the plays into simple (but reasonably thorough) stories kids can understand, while conveying some flavor of the original. If you've ever taken a little kid to see a Shakespeare play, you'll know that they can totally get into the action and mood, but may have a hard time following the plot (the man wrote some mighty complicated plots). I've used this book twice now to introduce my kid to the plays before taking him to see them. Thanks to E. Nesbitt's lovely storytelling, he goes in already understanding the plot, which leaves him free to appreciate the language and performance because he gets what they're all about. I'd recommend this to anyone who wants to introduce their kids to Shakespeare, especially if you plan to follow it up by seeing the play!

I love the free books for the Kindle and Kindle daily deals. They greatly expand our homeschool reading beyond what we can find at our library as well as allow us to keep a copy as long as we need. This was a bit confusing to read. The kids did better with other synopses found online

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