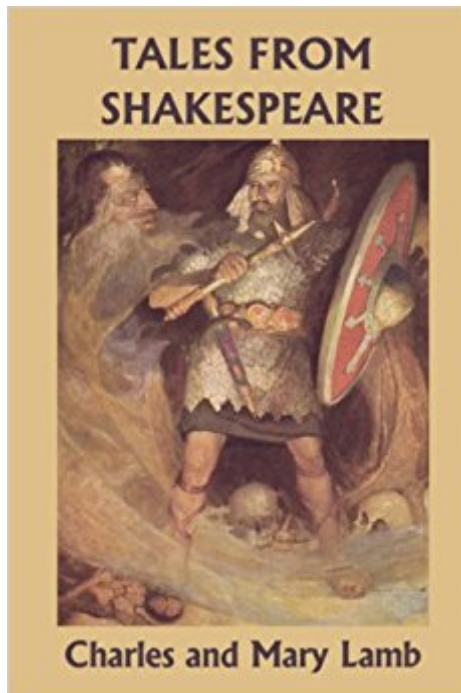


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# Tales From Shakespeare (Yesterday's Classics)



## Synopsis

First published in 1807, these simple retellings of the plots of Shakespeare's plays have delighted generations of children, while serving as an excellent introduction to the dramas of our greatest playwright. Shakespeare's own language is used as much as possible to accustom children to the English of the Elizabethan age and so make easier their transition to the reading of the plays themselves. Numerous black and white illustrations by Louis Rhead complement the text. Suitable for ages 10 and up.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Charles Lamb (1775 – 1834) was an English writer and essayist, best known for his *Essays of Elia* and for the children's book *Tales from Shakespeare*, which he produced with his sister, Mary Lamb (1764–1847). He also wrote a number of poems, and was part of a literary circle in England, along with Samuel Taylor Coleridge and William Wordsworth, whom he befriended. He has been referred to by E. V. Lucas, his principal biographer, as "the most lovable figure in English literature". --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

I accidentally discovered a hardbound version of this work in a used bookstore perhaps twenty years ago, and recently gifted it to my oldest granddaughter, who has a love for Shakespeare's world. I then discovered the identical work -- for free! -- on Kindle. The plays are presented in a prose, short story format, written for young people. They are delightfully detailed and the language and style of writing, although somewhat dated, is smooth and fun reading. This is a definite recommendation for anyone wanting to discover The Bard's works without having to wade through

the plays. For anyone needing a quick knowledge of a particular play, or just wanting to immerse themselves in the genius of Shakespeare's work, this is the book to get. And it's free!

Great way to read Shakespeare if you don't want to read the originals. The author uses much the same language so it reads like the real thing but it's easier to assimilate. I highly recommend this! I also like that I can read a few plays and leave it for a while & then when I'm in the mood for more it's easy to go back to and read the next play.

first, allow me to say that i am quite enjoying these puffin classics editions of some of my favorite books! here we have a great tool for those being introduced to shakespeare and his vast body of work. to the new shakespeare reader, it can be difficult (through language and writing style) to understand the stories of each play, however this book breaks them down into understandable stories, as well as includes a comprehensive glossary of the main characters in each of the plays covered. this book covers the following plays: the tempest, a midsummer night's dream, the winter's tale, much ado about nothing, as you like it, the two gentlemen of verona, the merchant of venice, cymbeline, king lear, macbeth, all's well that ends well, the taming of the shrew, the comedy of errors, measure for measure, twelfth night; or, what you will, timon of athens, romeo and juliet, hamlet, prince of denmark, the helms deep, prince of tyre. when i was in high school, each fall, the drama club would go to ashland, oregon, home of the largest stateside shakespeare festival (and a modified recreation of the old globe theatre) to see several plays. how i wish i would have had this book back then for reference! a bonus here with the puffin classics is the addition of backstory included at the end of the book. here you can learn more about the author, the characters, and so much more. what a delightful thing to include! i have purchased most of these puffin classics editions, and will certainly look for future additions to add to my collection.

These are the "original" Lamb stories. This version (Altemus' Young People's Library, 1901) only has the following stories: - Romeo and Juliet - King Lear - Othello - MacBeth - The Merchant of Venice - Hamlet, Prince of Denmark - A Midsummer Night's Dream. The best version I have found is the 2013 hardback Calla edition from Dover Publications. It has excellent text printed on heavy paper, with black and white head and tail pieces by Frank Pape, and fifty color illustrations by various artists. Best of all, unlike most classic works these days, this book is free from ivory tower windbagery. In fact, there is no introduction at all! Another good version with all 20 stories is the Children's Classics 1986 hardback by Random House Value Publishing.

This is an essential to children and grown ups alike as a way to comprehend the stories of Shakespeare, which as prose are as brilliant as the plays. I received this book (when it was actually a paper book!) when I was a child, and it aided me in understanding of all the great plays since the Lambs have converted the plays into short stories. Of course the well crafted dialogue and incredible insights and observations made famous in the plays can only be appreciated in the plays, but at least this book lays the ground work. But this is a highly valuable source.

I have to confess to buying this book because I saw it referred to in a Jane Austen fan fiction book. I was curious. It is quite a cute little book and bravo to the Lambs for wanting to make Shakespeare accessible to children. I know heaps of people who look at me askew because they don't "get" Shakespeare . . . this book would certainly help any adult who has a problem with the vernacular of the age.

A wonderful way of engaging with the immortal classics of Shakespeare for those who love literature but find Shakespearean language an insurmountable hurdle. The stories are related well and with a good amount of detail and those who have read the original will vouch for the fact that a lot of expressions in the original are present to give on the flavour of the original itself. Lamb's own language is removed from modern English to some extent and for the Lamb fan that is another merit of this collection- getting the taste of Lamb's inimitable style.

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