



Should we still study Shakespeare in school?

This year the new curriculum for secondary schools commenced. It involves more study of writers and books from the British literary heritage and more of Shakespeare's work. Is this right? Should we be reading books from the past or should we be reading more modern books that are more relevant to our lives now? This is what we think:

Who is William Shakespeare you say? Well, he's the most famous British poet and playwrights in the world. He wrote over 37 plays and 154 works in which we all still read and watch today. However, in my opinion I do not think we should read his plays and poems in school because his language is too complex for kids like us to read. Therefore, we should only read Shakespeare's work at college or university, when we are old enough to understand the language he uses.

By Dylan

I think we should learn about Shakespeare because it is challenging. If we read challenging literature when we are younger it will help us when we are older. Also, Shakespeare is totally talented and popular so we should read and watch what he has written and enjoy it.

By Inga

I believe that we should study Shakespeare because he is a huge part of British literary heritage. However, part of me also thinks that we shouldn't study him because his work is out of date, boring and too difficult to understand. We don't understand the words he uses; old English is too difficult! I am not the only person to think this as well; 40% of my classmates also agree with me.

By Kaitlin

I think pupils should not study Shakespeare because they should study writers that are more modern. Shakespeare's language is too hard and complicated for pupils to understand. His plays and poems are boring and about out-of-date topics that pupils can no longer relate to. Pupils prefer to read modern books and magazines. Furthermore, Shakespeare shouldn't study Shakespeare in English lessons; he should be studied in drama so his plays can be acted out instead of just being read. This will make it more exciting for pupils.

By Brodie

William Shakespeare is the most famous and successful British writer of all time, writing over 37 plays and 154 works that we know and are still reading and watching to this day.

Shakespeare needs to be studied in schools because he can inspire and educate children, like he has inspired generations of writers, poets and playwrights, and still does. It is obvious that Shakespeare should be taught in every school. The RSC say if children are over thirteen they find it harder to learn Shakespeare's language, but if they are younger they don't because if they don't understand words they don't care; all they want to do is read a story or have a story read to them. This is why children need to learn Shakespeare at school.

By Ellis

I think we should stop learning about Shakespeare because we are too young to be able to understand the difficult language he uses. Also, his plays and poems are too boring. If you continue to make us study old writers like Shakespeare you will continue to switch us off.

By Aaron

We should not study Shakespeare because his words are complicated and he's old. We should study modern texts, which are written in more modern language and cover modern ideas. Modern texts are more relevant to us as they are about the world we live in today and not things that happened hundreds of years ago. We do not need to know about Old English because we no longer use it.

By Jack