



Shakespeare Stories

Leon Garfield , Michael Foreman (Illustrator)

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By skillfully weaving his own prose with Shakespeare's language, Leon Garfield has refashioned twelve of the Elizabethan playwright's most memorable dramas into stories, capturing all the richness of the characters, plot, mood, and setting. This format will delight both those who know the great dramatist's works and those who are new to them. Michael Foreman's dramatic color illustrations and varied black-and-white line drawings are the perfect complement to this celebration of Shakespeare's genius.

Shakespeare Stories Details

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Author : Leon Garfield , Michael Foreman (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Shakespeare Stories for online ebook

Suzanne Vincent says

This book and it's companion volume II are an excellent way to introduce young readers to Shakespeare. Read-alouds for 2 through 5 graders, and read-alones for 6th through 9th, they are well-written, include numerous direct quotes from the plays, follow the storylines faithfully, and are punctuated with some beautiful ink and watercolor illustrations.

Julie Pederson says

This vivid re-telling of Shakespeare's plays is full of descriptive language. It hits on the crucial points of the various stories and includes important dialog. Very enjoyable to read for an adult who isn't up for a re-read of all those plays we read in high school! (or those we never got to but should have). Children would enjoy it to and I think it would be helpful to read before the plays so as to get the gist of the story.

♥Xeni♥ says

This book frightened me a youngster. I think it was mainly the very disturbing artwork, although Shakespeare himself did come up with some bizarre scenes!

Still, this book did contribute to my modern-day love of Shakespeare's works, something that I will always be grateful for. You can't really count yourself a great reader (in my eyes anyway) if you don't find yourself with an affinity for some of the prose and verse that this man (or whatever, conspiracies aside, for this review) had used/invented.

I love how there are great 'children's versions' out there that allow you to get a taste of his Middle English with our Modern English tossed in. Definitely a great book to have acquired at such a young age!

Gwennie says

I bought this book with my allowance when I was in 6th grade...adn I still love it to this day. These are faithful retellings of Shakespeare's plays in story form...and they include much of the beautiful language. Reading these helped me learn to love the plays as I got older.

Barbra Ann says

Want an introduction to the beauty of Shakespeare? Leon Garfield is the best: ex. from The Merchant of Venice: "In the watery city of Venice, where high-necked boats, like children's painted horses, nod and curtsy along the flowing streets, and the bright air is full of the winks and chinks of smiling money, there lived a merchant by the name of Antonio." ~~~~ exquisite.

Lisa says

A collection of 12 of Shakespeare's more famous plays, retold and written in a modern, engaging style.

dale paul says

This book aids in one's first attempt at tilling the garden that is the mind for the arduous task of planting Shakespeare in the brain. The plays are broken down into detailed summaries that would make great bedtimes stories for young ones, save a few. It doesn't have all the plays, but most of the good ones. It does include snip-its from Shakespear's pen which is a plus.

Melissa says

Very useful abridged Shakespeare plays.

Kirti says

A fantastic volume for middle-school students, each story between 25 - 35 pages long, but including all important events and all characters.

Leah says

This book was my first introduction to Shakespeare. My dad read the stories to me when I was little. I love the illustrations.

Aileen says

I bought this and the second volume whilst visiting Shakespeare's birth place in Stratford. This one contains 12 of the most popular plays retold as short stories, including amongst others, Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth, Hamlet, Othello and The Tempest. All were easy to understand and quick to read through. Much easier in fact than all that time spent in school trying to get to grips with the original work!

Stuart says

The first time I read anything by William Shakespeare was 9th grade. I didn't understand it. I don't think my

teacher understood. And it didn't ignite a spark in me to read more of his works. I would like to say as my high school years passed I got progressively better, but it wasn't until I read Hamlet that I developed a true interest in Shakespeare. As I have grown older, I have read many different works on Shakespeare, including Catholic interpretations of his works and children's books that make his works more accessible and approachable to a younger audience. Today, I would like to tell you about Leon Garfield's Shakespeare Stories.

The book has twenty-one of Shakespeare's works including Hamlet, Othello, Macbeth, and Julius Caesar to name a few. Each work is approximately 20-30 pages long and is told in prose, not poetry. However, the actual lines from Shakespeare's plays are quoted. The language is simple and straightforward without sacrificing the beauty of the Bard. The book itself is a sturdy hardcover, which is much appreciated, and of a manageable size. The only elements I feel are missing from this book is an introduction, more illustrations, and I would have liked for each story to be broken into acts, like the actual plays were. Overall, I found this book to be the perfect introduction to Shakespeare for children in middle school or perhaps younger, if they are avid readers. In fact, I used the book as jumping off point for some of Shakespeare's plays that I have never read before, so there is a usefulness in this book for adults as well. I would much rather read this work and then the actual play, as opposed to Cliff's Notes. So if you are looking for a book to get your child, tween, or teen with Shakespeare, I can recommend no better book than this one.

Anna K?avi?a says

12 Shakespeare plays retold as short stories.

The Prince was also reading; but there was a deeper likeness between Hamlet and Ophelia than such outward show. Each had been commanded by a father, one living, one dead, to play a part for which nature had not fashioned them: Ophelia for deceit, and Hamlet for murderous revenge.

Paper Clippers says

How to introduce kids to Shakespeare—not just to the stories behind the plays but to the richness of his language and the depth of his characters. That's the challenge that Leon Garfield, a wonderful children's book writer, undertook to meet in his monumental and delightful Shakespeare Stories. Here are twenty-one of the Bard's plays, presented in what is not a series of dry retellings, but rather a refashioning of the dramas as stories, in a way that remains true to the essential spirit of the original versions. Garfield has captured all the richness of character, plot, mood, and setting in Shakespeare's works without resorting to simplification. Indeed, he deliberately retains much of Shakespeare's language, skillfully weaving it into his own prose so that the reader is introduced to the flavor of the verse, as well as to the incidents of plot and the spectacle of the drama. Leon Garfield's Shakespeare Stories is an essential distillation—a celebration and a reminder of Shakespeare's genius as a poet and dramatist.

Diana Kullman says

This was a delightful book of Shakespeare Stories. I saved the two that I was unfamiliar with to read last and thoroughly enjoyed them (Cymbeline & Measure for Measure). I'm ready to get reacquainted with Shakespeare!
