

King Lear New Critical Essays Shakespeare Criticism

The original CliffsNotes study guides offer expert commentary on major themes, plots, characters, literary devices, and historical background. The latest generation of titles in this series also feature glossaries and visual elements that complement the classic, familiar format. In CliffsNotes on Shakespeare's King Lear, you explore one of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies – the gripping story of greed, treachery, and murder among sisters; and the foolhardiness and revelation of a father. This study guide carefully walks you through every twist and turn of Shakespeare's classic by providing summaries and critical analyses of each act and scene of the play. You'll also explore the life and background of the "Bard" himself -- William Shakespeare. Other features that help you study include Character analyses of major players A character map that graphically illustrates the relationships among the characters Critical essays A review section that tests your knowledge Glossaries of difficult words and phrases Classic literature or modern modern-day treasure – you'll understand it all with expert information and insight from CliffsNotes study guides.

With a remarkable breadth of coverage and a focused, user-friendly approach, this sourcebook is the essential guide for any student of King Lear.

Fifteen noted critics including A. C. Bradley, G. Wilson Knight, Maynard Mack, and Stephen Booth investigate aspects of the structure, themes, and staging of the Shakespearean tragedy

Each volume in this series provides an introduction tracing the subject author's critical reputation, trends in interpretation, developments in textual and biographical scholarship, and reprints of selected essays and reviews, beginning with the author's contemporaries and continuing through to current scholarship. Many volumes also feature new essays by leading scholars and critics, specially commissioned for the series.

King Lear, William Shakespeare

With New and Updated Critical Essays and a Revised Bibliography

Critical Essays on Shakespeare's King Lear

COLLECTION OF CRITICAL ESSAYS.

Some Facets of King Lear

This edition first published in 1966. Previous edition published 1965 by the University of California Press. Perhaps more than any other play of Shakespeare's King Lear has been subjected to almost totally contradictory interpretations. In the first historical section of the book the author describes the varying concepts of the play and the distortions of text and even plot that have been widely used. Garrick's playing of Lear as a pathetic and down-trodden old man. Laughton's and Olivier's versions and Herbert Blaus's theory of the 'subtext' are described and analysed. The central section of the book examines the medieval, folk and romance sources of the play. The final chapter illustrates how the action of the play and its pervading violence and evil are not explained in terms of human motive and rely for their meaning more on their effects than their antecedents. An important theme is the play's examination of society and the ties of service and family love.

In its timeless exploration of familial and political dissolution, and in its relentless questioning of the apparent moral indifference of the universe, King Lear is Shakespeare's darkest tragedy. It is also one of his most timely, for many of the issues it raises resonate loudly within our own era. This reference lucidly overviews King Lear's textual history and intellectual background, its issues and themes, its scholarly and critical reception, and its life in several different productions.

One of the most memorable and affecting Shakespearean characters is Edgar in King Lear. He has long been celebrated for his faithfulness in the face of his father's rejection, and the scene in which he saves his blinded father from suicide is regarded as one of the most moving in all of Shakespeare. In 'Poor Tom', Simon Palfrey asks us to rethink all those received ideas - and thus to experience King Lear as never before. He argues that Edgar is Shakespeare's most radical experiment in characterization - and also his most exhaustive model of both human and theatrical possibility.

Originally published in 1984. With selections organised chronologically, this collection presents the best writing on one of Shakespeare's most studied plays. The structure displays the changing responses to the play and includes a wide range of criticism from the likes of Coleridge, Hazlitt, Moulton, Granville-Barker, Orwell, Levin, Stampfer, Gardner and Speaight interspersed with short entries from Keats, Raleigh, Freud and others. The final chapter by the editor elucidates his own thoughts on Lear, building on his commentary in the Introduction which puts the collection in context.

The Cultural Background

A Casebook ; [a Selection of Critical Essays] Twentieth Century Adaptations of King Lear

Twelfth Night

This series aims to introduce students to a wide variety of critical opinion and to show students, by example, how to construct a good critical essay.

One of the most popular of Shakespeare's plays, *King Lear* is also one of the most thought-provoking. The play turns on the practical ramifications of the words of Christ that we should render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and unto God that which is God's. When confronted with the demand that she should render unto Caesar that which is God's, Cordelia chooses to "love and be silent". As the play unfolds each of the principal characters learns wisdom through suffering. This edition includes new critical essays by some of the leading lights in contemporary literary scholarship.

Using a variety of approaches, from postcolonialism and New Historicism to psychoanalysis and gender studies, the international contributors to *Hamlet: New Critical Essays* contribute major new interpretations on the conception and writing, editing, and cultural productions of *Hamlet*. This book is the most up-to-date and comprehensive critical analysis available of one of Shakespeare's best-known and most engaging plays.

"Patrick Murphy's collection of critical essays on *The Tempest* traces the history of Shakespeare's controversial late romance from its early reception and adaptation in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries to the present day with a selection of classic and original essays pertaining to the play's use in the theater and in literary history. With the help of these wide-ranging essays, readers may trace the interaction between theatrical performance and critical reaction to explore and amplify the many interpretive possibilities of *The Tempest*."--Page 4 of cover.

A Collection of Critical Essays

Suffering Ecstasy

King Lear in our Time

Critical Essays on Shakespeare's A Lover's Complaint

Essays in Prismatic Criticism

Is King Lear an autonomous text, or a rewrite of the earlier and anonymous play King Leir? Should we refer to Shakespeare's original quarto when discussing the play, the revised folio text, or the popular composite version, stitched together by Alexander Pope in 1725? What of its stage variations? When turning from page to stage, the critical view on King Lear is skewed by the fact that for almost half of the four hundred years the play has been performed, audiences preferred Naham Tate's optimistic adaptation, in which Lear and Cordelia live happily ever after. When discussing King Lear, the question of what comprises 'the play' is both complex and fragmentary. These issues of identity and authenticity across

time and across mediums are outlined, debated, and considered critically by the contributors to this volume. Using a variety of approaches, from postcolonialism and New Historicism to psychoanalysis and gender studies, the leading international contributors to King Lear: New Critical Essays offer major new interpretations on the conception and writing, editing, and cultural productions of King Lear. This book is an up-to-date and comprehensive anthology of textual scholarship, performance research, and critical writing on one of Shakespeare's most important and perplexing tragedies. Contributors Include: R.A. Foakes, Richard Knowles, Tom Clayton, Cynthia Clegg, Edward L. Rocklin, Christy Desmet, Paul Cantor, Robert V. Young, Stanley Stewart and Jean R. Brink

In the 1980s influential scholars argued that Shakespeare revised King Lear in light of theatrical performance, resulting in two texts by the bard's own hand. The two-text theory hardened into orthodoxy. Here Sir Brian Vickers makes the case that Shakespeare did not cut his original text. At stake is the way his greatest play is read and performed.

Pericles: Critical Essays brings together the most essential critical essays and theatrical reviews of Shakespeare's play from the late 17th century to the present, providing a representative gathering of critical opinion of Pericles over the centuries. David Skeele's introduction identifies the critical issues and problems the play has raised, cites and evaluates significant critical works, and gives readers a guide to research on the play.

King Lear is one of Shakespeare's most performed and studied plays - seen as one of the most significant and universal tragedies of all time. This guide introduces the play's critical and performance history, including notable stage productions alongside TV, film and radio versions. It includes a keynote chapter outlining major areas of current research on the play and four new critical essays. Finally, a guide to critical, web-based and production-related resources and an annotated bibliography provide a basis for further individual research.

Hamlet

Shakespeare

CliffsNotes on Shakespeare's King Lear

Macbeth

The Tempest

Infocus article - English Two performances of King Lear which emphasise different elements of the play are described in this article. One performance concentrated on the father/daughter elements of the play, while the second emphasised its political side. King Lear is a story about a generational power play that leads to civil war. By divesting his power as King, Lear destroys the authority of the political system he represents and in the process unravels many of the human relationships that surround him. Critical Essays on King Lear 1988 pp. 43-53.

The image of the prism, with its multiple refractions, offers some sense of the inexhaustible variety of a work of art. Like a prism, King Lear is attractive; like a prism, it is a multiply shaped thing; like a prism, it is an object of admiration, as well as an instrument of analysis. The essays in this book – forming neither a casebook nor a 'perplex' – were written because their authors wanted to understand something specific about this very complicated play. Throughout, the emphasis is on

Shakespeare's consciousness of his craft, on his critical use of the materials, notions, and devices available to him – on the play (prism-like) as an instrument of analysis. Although the different contributors have occasionally influenced one another's readings of the play, the essays were written independently; that they are so mutually supportive is the result of the play's central insistence on its own primary meaning, visible from whatever perspective a serious reader may take.

This volume offers a wealth of critical analysis, supported with ample historical and bibliographical information about one of Shakespeare's most enduringly popular and globally influential plays. Its eighteen new chapters represent a broad spectrum of current scholarly and interpretive approaches, from historicist criticism to performance theory to cultural studies. A substantial section addresses early modern themes, with attention to the protagonists and the discourses of politics, class, gender, the emotions, and the economy, along with discussions of significant 'minor' characters and less commonly examined textual passages. Further chapters scrutinize Macbeth's performance, adaptation and transformation across several media—stage, film, text, and hypertext—in cultural settings ranging from early nineteenth-century England to late twentieth-century China. The editor's extensive introduction surveys critical, theatrical, and cinematic interpretations from the late seventeenth century to the beginning of the twenty-first, while advancing a synthetic argument to explain the shifting relationship between two conflicting strains in the tragedy's reception. Written to a level that will be both accessible to advanced undergraduates and, at the same time, useful to post-graduates and specialists in the field, this book will greatly enhance any study of Macbeth. Contributors: Rebecca Lemon, Jonathan Baldo, Rebecca Ann Bach, Julie Barmazel, Abraham Stoll, Lois Feuer, Stephen Deng, Lisa Tomaszewski, Lynne Bruckner, Michael David Fox, James Wells, Laura Engel, Stephen Buhler, Bi-qi Beatrice Lei, Kim Fedderson and J. Michael Richardson, Bruno Lessard, Pamela Mason.

The Merry Wives of Windsor has recently experienced a resurgence of critical interest. At times considered one of Shakespeare's weaker plays, it is often dismissed or marginalized; however, developments in feminist, ecocritical and new historicist criticism have opened up new perspectives and this collection of 18 essays by top Shakespeare scholars sheds fresh light on the play. The detailed introduction by Phyllis Rackin and Evelyn Gajowski provides a historical survey of the play and ties into an evolving critical and cultural context. The book's sections look in turn at female community/female agency; theatrical alternatives; social and theatrical contexts; desire/sexuality; nature and performance to provide a contemporary critical analysis of the play.

A critical guide

Thinking About Shakespeare

Poor Tom

William Shakespeare's King Lear

Twentieth Century Interpretations of King Lear

William Shakespeare is defined by his tragedies. His unique ability to create a moral universe complete unto itself lends his characters not

only their stamp of authenticity but their bid to eternity as well. New full-length critical essays take up the Bard's tragic dramas, offering new perspectives on the fated lives of King Lear, Hamlet, Macbeth, Antony, and Cleopatra, and the many other vibrantly flawed personages he introduced to the world stage. This new edition also contains a chronology, a bibliography, an index, and an introductory essay from Yale University's Harold Bloom.

King Lear New Critical Essays Routledge

Critical essays on Shakespeare's King Lear.

By guiding readers through the difficulties of plot and language, this handbook leave them free to enjoy the depth, beauty, and vitality of Shakespeare's works.

The Merry Wives of Windsor

Pericles

Critical Essays on King Lear, William Shakespeare

King Lear as Political Tragedy

Shakespeare: King Lear

This engaging book provides in-depth discussion of the various influences that an audience in 1606 would have brought to interpreting 'King Lear'. How did people think about the world, about God, about sin, about kings, about civilized conduct? Learn about the social hierarchy, gender relationships, parenting and family dynamics, court corruption, class tensions, the literary profile of the time, the concept of tragedy - and all the subversions, transgressions, and oppositions that made the play an unsettling picture of a disintegrating world in free fall.

Explore the characters, themes, motifs, and modern interpretations of Shakespeare's King Lear all in modern English. Offers a completely new introduction, with a particular emphasis on the play's afterlife in global performance and adaptation.

"A literary analysis of the play "King Lear." Includes information on the history and culture of Elizabethan England"--Provided by publisher.

With Classic and Contemporary Criticisms

Critical Essays

The One King Lear

William Shakespeare

A Routledge Literary Sourcebook on William Shakespeare's King Lear

Originally published in 1986. Among the most frequently performed and high admired of Shakespeare's plays, Twelfth Night is examined here in this collection of writings from well-known essayists and scholars. The chapters present to the modern reader discussions of the play to enhance understanding and study of both the

text and performances. Opening essays address individual characters; then some accounts of its potential and theatrical reviews are included; finally followed by critical studies looking at various parts and themes. The editor's introduction explains the usefulness of each chapter and gives an overview of the selection.

Despite the outpour of interpretations, from critics of all schools, on Shakespeare's dramatic works and other poetic works, A Lover's Complaint has been almost totally ignored by criticism. This collection of essays is designed to bring to the poem the attention it deserves for its beauty, its aesthetic, psychological and conceptual complexity, and its representation of its cultural moment. A series of readings of A Lover's Complaint, particularly engaging with issues of psychoanalysis and gender, the volume cumulatively builds a detailed picture of the poem, its reception, and its critical neglect. The essays in the volume, by leading Shakespeareans, open up this important text before scholars, and together generate the long-overdue critical conversation about the many intriguing facets of the poem.

Looks at the diversity of the latest feminist, post-structuralist and new historicist accounts of King Lear. The contributors include Stephen Greenblatt, Terry Eagleton, Annabel Patterson and Jonathan Goldberg.

Explores the challenges of maintaining bonds, living up to ideals, and fulfilling desire in Shakespeare's plays In Thinking About Shakespeare, Kay Stockholder reveals the rich inner lives of some of Shakespeare's most enigmatic characters and the ways in which their emotions and actions shape and are shaped by the social and political world around them. In addressing all genres in the Shakespeare canon, the authors explore the possibility of people being constant to each other in many different kinds of relationships: those of lovers, kings and subjects, friends, and business partners. While some bonds are irrevocably broken, many are reaffirmed. In all cases, the authors offer insight into what drives Shakespeare's characters to do what they do, what draws them together or pulls them apart, and the extent to which bonds can ever be eternal.

Ultimately, the most durable bond may be between the playwright and the audience, whereby the playwright pleases and the audience approves. The book takes an in-depth look at a dozen of The Bard's best-loved works, including: A Midsummer Night's Dream; Romeo and Juliet; The Merchant of Venice; Richard II; Henry IV, Part I; Hamlet; Troilus and Cressida; Othello; Macbeth; King Lear; Antony and Cleopatra; and The Tempest. It also provides an epilogue titled: Prospero and Shakespeare. Written in a style accessible for all levels Discusses 12 plays, making it a comprehensive study of Shakespeare's work Covers every genre of The Bard's work, giving readers a full sense of Shakespeare's art/thought over the course of his oeuvre Provides a solid overall sense of each play and the major characters/plot lines in them Providing new and sometimes unconventional and provocative ways to think about characters that have had a long critical heritage, Thinking About Shakespeare is an enlightening read that is perfect for scholars, and ideal for any level of student studying one of history's greatest storytellers.

KING LEAR

New Critical Essays

'King Lear' in Context
The Tragedy of King Lear
A Guide to the Play