
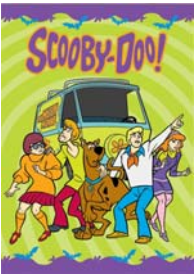


Movie Response—*The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*

Tragedy into Comedy 1/3 page	The play condenses all of Shakespeare's comedies into one scene and turns all of his histories into a football game. Primarily, the scenes focus on presenting reduced versions of Shakespeare's tragedies. Why do you think its writers focus mainly on tragedies to create this comic play?
Cultural Map 1/3 page	<p>The preface in the printed version of the play includes notes from its writers, including one from William Shakespeare. In his comments, he says—</p> <p>Let's face it, when you're a playwright who's been dead for a few hundred years, it's difficult to compete culturally in this age of MTV and Nintendo. Iambic pentameter isn't "hip" these days. Three quatrains and a rhyming couplet are no match for digitally sampled erotic heaving and black and white super-8 of fishnet stocking and pierced nipples. Looking back on it now I would have done things differently...O, so differently. <i>Mais c'est la vie.</i> <...> I'd like to thank Adam, Daniel, and Jess*, without whom my work would surely have vanished from the cultural map along with Hula Hoops and the Water Wiggle. (xxv)</p> <p>Do you agree with the idea that Shakespeare's work would vanish from the "cultural map" if it weren't for plays like the one we watched today (as well as pesky English teachers)? Why or why not?</p> <p><small>*Adam Long, Daniel Singer, Jess Borgeson, playwrights of <i>The Compleat Works of WLLM SHKSPR (abridged)</i></small></p>
Cultural Literacy 1/3 page	Whether or not you like Shakespeare's plays, do you believe reading, viewing, or studying them has value or importance? Why or why not?

Types of Humor

<p>Directions</p>	<p>As you watch The Reduced Shakespeare Company's <i>The Complete Works of William Shakespeare</i>, list examples of the different types of humor they incorporate into their production.</p>
<p>Verbal</p>	<p>Use of witty comments, puns, play on words, double entendres, repartee, banter, etc.</p>
<p>Physical</p>	<p>Use of physical gestures or movement to make people laugh – running into walls, getting a pie in the face, etc. Also called slapstick.</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  <p>The Three Stooges</p> </div>
<p>Plot</p>	<p>Incorporating wild coincidences, twists, or complications into the story, often through use of deception, disguise, and/or mistaken identity.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
<p>Character</p>	<p>Developing characters through repeated characteristics (quirks, comments, habits) and/or foolish behavior.</p>
<p>Evaluate</p>	<p>In your opinion, which type of humor – verbal, physical, plot, or character – works best in <i>The Complete Works of William Shakespeare</i> (abridged)? Explain why you think so, referring to specific examples from the play in your response. Neatly fill at least ½ page.</p>