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INTR 101

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Bryson, Bill. "The Plays." *Shakespeare: The World as Stage*.

New York: HarperCollins, 2008. 96-116.

William Shakespeare's career as a playwright began in about 1590, but there is much speculation on the debut of his first work that could be of any of his first eight pieces (*The Comedy of Errors*, *The Two Gentleman of Verona*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Titus Andronicus*, *King John*, or the three parts of *Henry VI*). Many experts believe that all eight pieces could be his first but no two lists are the same. Along with Shakespeare and his many pronunciations and abbreviations alike; Shakespeare's plays also went by other names such as *the Twelfth Night* was called *Malvolio*, and *Much Ado About Nothing* was called *Benedick and Beatrice*. By 1598, Shakespeare had proven himself through his plays in comedy, history, and tragedy, and had accomplished enough to already leave him with one of the greatest playwrights ever. It is said that Shakespeare borrowed pedestrian pieces of work and provided them with distinction and greatness. There were many rules to be followed by during Shakespeare's era in classical drama, but however one of the classical dramas rules was that it were taken in one place, in one day, and having a single plot. Shakespeare could have never written his greatest pieces if he were bound by this rule (*Hamlet* and *Macbeth*). It is also said that Shakespeare knew as much as any lawyer, doctor, statesman, and any other accomplished professional of his age. His real gift was a phrasemaker. "Shakespeare's language," says Stanley Wells, "has quality, difficulty to define, of memorability that has caused many phrases to enter common language."