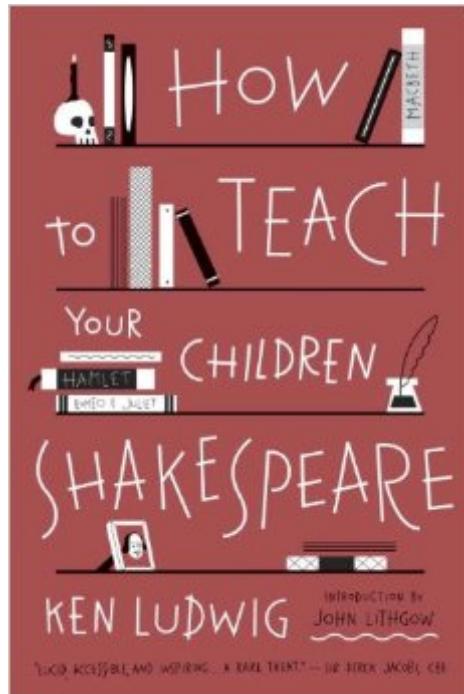


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# How To Teach Your Children Shakespeare



## Synopsis

Winner of the Falstaff Award for Best Shakespeare Book, *How To Teach Your Children Shakespeare* is a foolproof, enormously fun method of teaching your children the classic works of William Shakespeare by Tony-Award winning playwright, Ken Ludwig. To know some Shakespeare provides a head start in life. His plays are among the great bedrocks of Western civilization and contain the finest writing of the past 450 years. Many of the best novels, plays, poems, and films in the English language produced since Shakespeare's death in 1616 "from *Pride and Prejudice* to *The Godfather*" are heavily influenced by Shakespeare's stories, characters, language, and themes. In *How to Teach Your Children Shakespeare*, acclaimed playwright Ken Ludwig provides the tools you need to inspire an understanding, and a love, of Shakespeare's works in your children, and to have fun together along the way. Ken Ludwig devised his friendly, easy-to-master methods while teaching his own children. Beginning with memorizing short passages from the plays, his technique then instills children with cultural references they will utilize for years to come. Ludwig's approach includes understanding of the time period and implications of Shakespeare's diction as well as the invaluable lessons behind his words and stories. Colorfully incorporating the history of Shakespearean theater and society, *How to Teach Your Children Shakespeare* guides readers on an informed and adventurous journey through the world in which the Bard wrote. This book's simple process allows anyone to impart to children the wisdom of plays like *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. And there's fun to be had throughout. Shakespeare novices and experts and readers of all ages will each find something delightfully irresistible in *How to Teach Your Children Shakespeare*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Memorization, once a key component of a child's education, has been derided in this computer age when information is available at our fingertips. Years ago, every child memorized poetry, famous political speeches like the Gettysburg Address, and much more. However, setting memorization aside in favor of simply understanding concepts has deprived a generation or more of a rich literary and cultural heritage that once nestled within the child's own mind instead of at the click of a mouse. Without appropriating this heritage, many connections to other works of literature, history, etc. become lost to the child. And more than memorization is at work here. This book helps you to help your child understand Shakespeare starting from manageable bites to long soliloquies, richly savoring the meanings of words and phrases, and the humor and pathos of Shakespeare's characters, and learn that many phrases and idioms we take for granted in English originated with Shakespeare. The author even gives hints on how to read or recite Shakespeare with proper emphasis and expression. This book makes Shakespeare fun without "modernizing" it or making it silly in an effort to appeal to modern kids (an approach which I always found to be beneath the abilities and dignity of children). I found myself wanting, at the end of the book, a "teacher's cheat sheet" that would summarize the steps. But that would miss the point and turn this into another rote lesson, instead of a chance for me to learn side by side with my kids, teaching them according to what inspires, interests, and touches us most as the author did with his own children, rather than from a strict lesson plan.

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