

# Shakespeare, Dickens, and the Bible

By Miranda McCulley

## Introduction to Shakespeare

### Week 1

- This week you will be learning about Shakespeare and the time during which he lived, in preparation to begin reading some of his works. One way to prepare you for this will be to study and become familiar with the language he used. I want you to watch the Development of English Language PowerPoint (Twinkl content) and follow the instructions.
- As the PowerPoint explains, the language that Shakespeare used is the same as what is found in our King James Bible. The language of the Bishops Bible and the Geneva Bible that preceded the KJV are a blend between middle English and early modern English. Comparing a few of the verses from each will help you to understand just how the English language has progressed. Read “What the V?” below and answer the questions at the bottom of the page.
- Each day this week I will be giving you a word in Scripture that you will find in Shakespeare’s work. Using the passage(s) I give you, see if you can figure out the meaning of the highlighted word(s). If not, try looking it up in a dictionary or using the Webster’s 1828 online. (You may want to bookmark that site for future reference; the definitions from that edition of Webster’s dictionary will prove very useful though out this course.) Once you have the meaning of the word, write it on paper with the definition. Keep this, as you will add to it each day this week to be a sort of cheat sheet when you begin reading Shakespeare’s works next week.

### Shakespearean Word of the Day: twain

And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they *twain* shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more *twain*, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. (Matthew 19:4-6)

Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in *twain* from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent. (Matthew 27:50-51)

For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of *twain* one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby. (Ephesians 2:14-16)

## What the V ?

Bishops Bible	Geneva Bible	King James Bible
There is no difference: For all haue synned, and are destitute of the glorie of God, Romans 3:22-23	For there is no difference: for all haue sinned, and are deprived of the glorie of God, Romans 3:23	For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Romans 3:22-23
But God setteth out his loue towarde vs, seyng that whyle we were yet sinners, Christe dyed for vs. Romans 5:8	But God setteth out his loue towards vs, seeing that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for vs. Romans 5:8	But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8
For by grace are ye made safe through fayth, and that not of your selues, it is the gyft of God: Not of workes, lest any man shoulde boast hym selfe. Ephesians 2:8-9	For by grace are ye saued through faith, and that not of your selues: it is the gift of God, Not of workes, lest any man should boast himselfe. Ephesians 2:8-9	For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9
Moreouer brethren I declare vnto you, the Gospell which I preached vnto you, which also ye haue receaued, and wherin ye cotinue, By the which also ye are saued, yf ye kepe in memorie after what maner I preached vnto you, except ye haue beleued in vayne. For first of all I deliuered vnto you, that which I receaued: howe that Christe dyed for our sinnes, agreeyng to the scriptures: And that he was buried, and that he arose agayne the thirde day, accordyng to the scriptures: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4	Moreouer brethren, I declare vnto you the Gospel, which I preached vnto you, which ye haue also receiued, and wherein ye continue, And whereby ye are saued, if ye kepe in memorie, after what maner I preached it vnto you, except ye haue beleued in vaine. For first of all, I deliuered vnto you that which I receiued, how that Christ died for our sinnes, according to the Scriptures, And that he was buried, and that he arose the third day, according to the Scriptures, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4	Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Was it hard to read the Bishops and Geneva verses?

What changes do you notice between them and the KJV?

Be glad Shakespeare wrote in the King James Bible style!

## Day 2

- Today you will be looking at theater in Shakespeare's day. Begin by watching the Elizabethan Theater PowerPoint lesson 1 (Twinkl content). Follow the instructions on it.
- The fourth slide tells you to use a spider chart, you will find one below to print out or you can draw one on a separate piece of paper.
- Be sure you have the worksheet referred to accessible, either printed out or up on the screen as you will need it to complete the presentation.
- Answer the questions on the seventh slide.
- Don't forget your Shakespearean Word(s) of the Day below.

### Shakespearean Word(s) of the Day: asunder and rent

And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both *asunder*; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and *rent* them in two pieces. (2 Kings 2:11-12)

And I will set fire in Egypt: Sin shall have great pain, and No shall be *rent asunder*, and Noph shall have distresses daily. (Ezekiel 30:16)

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing *asunder* of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was *rent* in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks *rent*; (Matthew 27:50-51)

