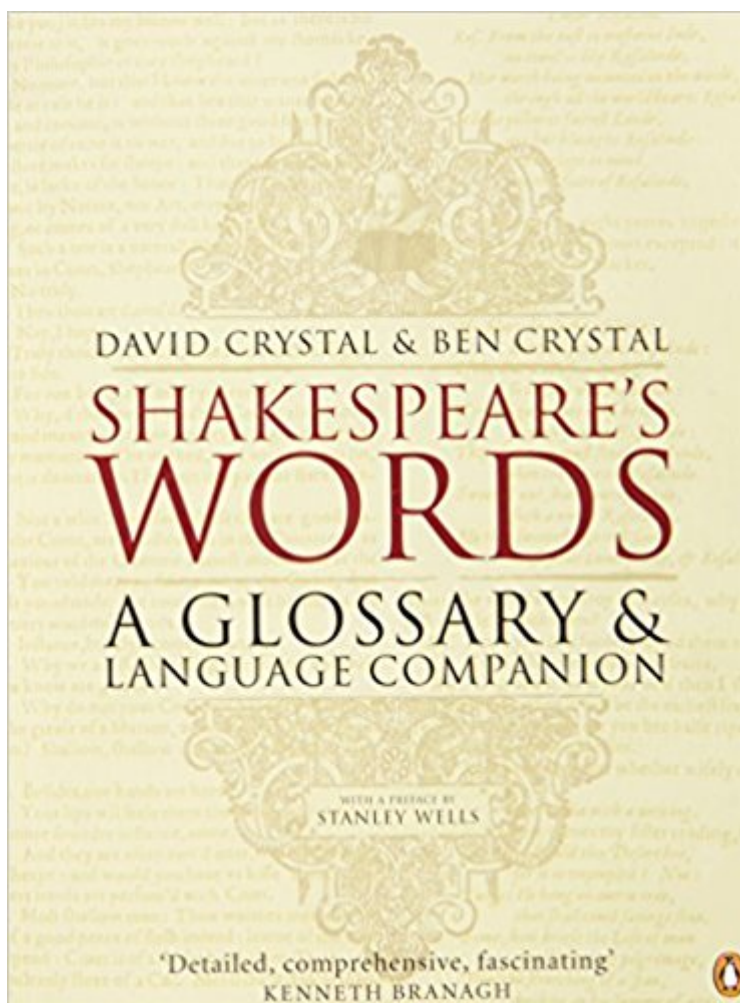


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Shakespeare's Words: A Glossary And Language Companion



Synopsis

A vital resource for scholars, students and actors, this book contains glosses and quotes for over 14,000 words that could be misunderstood by or are unknown to a modern audience. Displayed panels look at such areas of Shakespeare's language as greetings, swear-words and terms of address. Plot summaries are included for all Shakespeare's plays and on the facing page is a unique diagrammatic representation of the relationships within each play.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The main lexical references for Shakespeare scholars in the twentieth century were first Alexander Schmidt's two-volume Shakespeare Lexicon (1874) and later C. T. Onions' Shakespeare Glossary, which appeared in 1911 and was revised by Onions in 1919. A further revision in 1986, by Robert D. Eagleson, kept Onions in print but failed, to some extent, to satisfy scholars. The new Shakespeare's Words seems likely to fill the void created by the superannuated Onions. Using the New Penguin Shakespeare as their text, the editors, linguist David Crystal and his actor son Ben Crystal, first collected all of the "problem" words flagged by the Penguin editors and then scoured the plays and sonnets for additional "difficult" words--especially words that are no longer current or that have developed a different sense since Shakespeare's time. After a few further additions, their entries totaled 21,263 under 13,626 headwords. Rather than defining a word by listing a single near synonym, the Crystals decided that a system called lexical triangulation would better reflect the complexity of Shakespeare's language. Most entries have three glosses, each providing a slightly different slant. For example, englut is glossed as "swallow up, gulp down, devour." Each entry

includes part of speech, an illustrative quotation (with text and context identified), and selected references to other occurrences. Sidebars contain brief tutorials on address forms, money, weapons, and more. Readers newly acquainted with Shakespeare will benefit greatly by browsing through the Crystals' list of 100 frequently encountered words, which are accompanied by more illustrative quotations than are provided elsewhere. Other useful features are a chronology, plot synopses, diagrams illustrating interactions of characters, and 16 appendixes providing brief definitions for historical people, places, foreign terms, and other vocabulary not found in the A-Z section. This is a most ambitious work that will be of immense value to student and scholar alike, a worthy successor to the landmark volumes that preceded it. Recommended for large public and academic libraries. RBBCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

A fresh look at the vocabulary of Shakespeare's poems and plays including a glossary of nearly 14,000 words and meanings. Ideal for aficionados and amateurs alike, either as a quick reference or as a basis for in-depth research. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Although one can never get quite as much out of reading Shakespeare (except for the sonnets) as one can from seeing his works performed, most of us cannot see performances of many of the plays even once, much less regularly, so we can only read them. And since it was written over 400 years ago and the English language has lost much of its formerly extensive vocabulary, it is very helpful to have a lexicon that provides the reader with a better understanding of the story, characters, events, and, even, humor of these wonderful works.

My favorite reference book. Not for casual devotees of Shakespeare. But if you're going to be writing about the Bard or, like me, trying to recreate his character in fiction, this book is indispensable. The authors call it a "glossary," but it's really a comprehensive encyclopedia of every word Shakespeare ever used in his plays and poems. It's a Shakespearean Rosetta stone. And more than dictionary, it includes charts, tables and sections categorized by topic. Shakespearean exclamations! Shakespearean curses! Shakespearean herbs? Yes. If you go to my blog at richnovotney.com I can recommend a bunch of other Shakespeare-related books, all available at .

Bought this as a gift for my boyfriend as he writes classic style poetry. He was extremely excited when he opened the package to find this in there. I myself have taken a look through it and if you're

a writer of ANY kind I would recommend this book.

Wonderful ! It's very updated! I bought this for my dad, and he's going to use it to teach his college Shakespeare course! He was excited when it came, and said it's "perfect."

This resource has become indispensable when I sit down to read a play or preparing a role. It is thorough and easy to use. My one quibble comes from placement of the page numbers on the upper inside corners of the pages. What? the Upper outside corners list the first and last words of the page, but the page numbers are buried by the spine. This makes finding something by page number (like one of the many interesting and useful sidebars) rather inconvenient, as one cannot simply flip through at the bottom outside corner to find the page quickly. I hope the authors will consider changing this in future editions. But this one tiny flaw in no way negates the massive usefulness of the information and scholarship this book contains!

This book is very helpful for anyone who has to read Shakespeare or just want to read it. I bought it to use in my Shakespearean Literature class, and it has saved my brain a number of times, helping to clarify sentences that can get confusing because of one or two words. It even gives exact examples of where the Bard uses them in his plays, giving sentence, as well as play, act, scene. It's also holding up quite well, despite being brought to class every weekday in a bag with many other things. I would definitely recommend it for anyone who wants to make reading Shakespeare easier.

nice reading.

excellent

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