

Final Examination Question
Shakespeare, Fall 2017

If read with care and intellectual curiosity, the works of Shakespeare can provide a challenging but satisfying reading experience—arguably one of the most rewarding in English literature. At its most dynamic, such reading demands a high level of understanding, the ability to critique the concepts presented, and the capacity to interact with the text at an aesthetic level. In other words, you must read critically but also with an appreciation for the underlying artistic principles of the work.

Please craft an essay that describes your reading experience, to date, with Shakespeare. Write an essay that moves beyond simplistic reactions such as “Reading Shakespeare is difficult.” Making use of selections from *each* of the plays we have read, discuss examples in the texts where you had difficulty understanding the meaning or appreciating Shakespeare’s goals (as you perceive them); discuss examples of texts with which you have engaged in meaningful ways; if any, present examples where your reading has had moments of clarity. You should discuss the process of your reading. In particular, you should describe the hard work of reading and rereading (with attention to the sonnets). All of you, presumably, have had some experience reading Shakespeare in the past. Such experience may contribute to your thinking as well. There should be an overarching logic and development to your discussion.

Please craft an intelligent, well-structured, well-argued and well-supported essay in response to this question. Use all appropriate scholarly formatting such as parenthetical citation and a works cited page that follows MLA style. Eight (8) to ten (10) pages, double-spaced, standard font; include a title. Due December 11th. Make this essay your own.