AUTHOR BACKSTORIES

William Shakespeare

Reading list

Every book in order of first publication. Each series is kept together, in reading order, starting where its first book appeared. Tick the box as you finish each one.

41 books · List updated November 14, 2026

- ☐ 1593 *Venus and Adonis*
  Poetry
  His first published work, printed by Richard Field, a schoolfellow from Stratford.
- ☐ 1594 *Henry VI, Part 2*
  Play
  First printed in 1594 as The First Part of the Contention betwixt the two famous Houses of Yorke and Lancaster.
- ☐ 1594 *The Rape of Lucrece*
  Poetry
- ☐ 1594 *Titus Andronicus*
  Play
- ☐ 1595 *Henry VI, Part 3*
  Play
  First printed in 1595 as The True Tragedie of Richard Duke of Yorke.
- ☐ 1597 *Richard II*
  Play
- ☐ 1597 *Richard III*
  Play
- ☐ 1597 *Romeo and Juliet*
  Play
- ☐ 1598 *Henry IV, Part 1*
  Play
- ☐ 1598 *Love's Labour's Lost*
  Play
- ☐ 1600 *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
  Play
- ☐ 1600 *Henry IV, Part 2*
  Play
- ☐ 1600 *Henry V*
  Play
- ☐ 1600 *Much Ado About Nothing*
  Play

- [ ] 1600 *The Merchant of Venice*
  Play
- [ ] 1602 *The Merry Wives of Windsor*
  Play
- [ ] 1603 *Hamlet*
  Play
  First printed in 1603 as The Tragicall Historie of Hamlet, Prince of Denmarke.
- [ ] 1608 *King Lear*
  Play
- [ ] 1609 *Pericles*
  Play
- [ ] 1609 *Shakespeare's Sonnets*
  Poetry
  154 sonnets, published with the poem A Lover's Complaint.
- [ ] 1609 *Troilus and Cressida*
  Play
- [ ] 1622 *Othello*
  Play
  First printed in quarto in 1622, six years after his death.
- [ ] 1623 *All's Well That Ends Well*
  Play
- [ ] 1623 *Antony and Cleopatra*
  Play
- [ ] 1623 *As You Like It*
  Play
- [ ] 1623 *Coriolanus*
  Play
- [ ] 1623 *Cymbeline*
  Play
- [ ] 1623 *Henry VI, Part 1*
  Play
- [ ] 1623 *Henry VIII*
  Play
- [ ] 1623 *Julius Caesar*
  Play
  First printed in the 1623 First Folio.
- [ ] 1623 *King John*
  Play

- [ ] 1623 *Macbeth*
  Play
  First printed in the 1623 First Folio.
- [ ] 1623 *Measure for Measure*
  Play
- [ ] 1623 *The Comedy of Errors*
  Play
- [ ] 1623 *The Taming of the Shrew*
  Play
- [ ] 1623 *The Tempest*
  Play
  First printed in the 1623 First Folio.
- [ ] 1623 *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*
  Play
- [ ] 1623 *The Winter's Tale*
  Play
- [ ] 1623 *Timon of Athens*
  Play
- [ ] 1623 *Twelfth Night*
  Play
  First printed in the 1623 First Folio.
- [ ] 1634 *The Two Noble Kinsmen*
  Play · with John Fletcher
  Not in the First Folio; first printed in 1634 with John Fletcher named on the title page.