



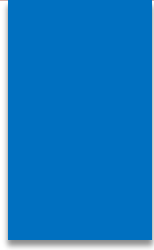
Shakespeare lives in several aspects of life

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Introduction

- ▶ Undoubtedly, Shakespeare is one of the biggest writers of all time.
- ▶ His ideas inspire people from his age to this day.
- ▶ His ideas changed the world.
- ▶ But, does he live through these ideas? Let's see.

Everyday Life



Language

- ▶ Shakespeare was the greatest inventor of words in English or in any language.
- ▶ He coined roughly 1,700 English words, including everyday ones like “jaded” and “bandit” and “mountaineer.” He invented words so common, you would never imagine they came from him, like “advertising” and “skim milk.” He invented fancy words like “sanctimonious” and “lackluster” and “consanguineous.” He invented ordinary words like “to dawn” and “glow” and “gnarled” and “gossip.” He invented wild words like “zany” and “buzzer.”
- ▶ He, even, invented names, like the name Jessica which was first used in “The Merchant of Venice.”
- ▶ His truest power is in our words, and his influence grows every time we open our mouths.

Civil Rights Movement

- ▶ “*Othello* has taken away from me all kinds of fears, all sense of limitation, and all racial prejudice,” Paul Robeson, the great African-American actor and activist told reporters. “*Othello* has made me free.”
- ▶ When Robeson performed “*Othello*” in a record-breaking run at the Shubert Theatre on Broadway in the 1940s, the play made him the most famous African-American to that point, and gave him unprecedented access and influence, as well as bringing the image of a strong African character and interracial love to the widest possible audience. Robeson was the first black man to speak to the owners of Major League Baseball on the subject of integrating the sport. His activism prepared the way for the social-justice movement 20 years later.

Events



Lincoln's Death

- ▶ John Wilkes Booth was inspired to assassinate Lincoln by his performance, only a few months earlier, in Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar." The parallels between the theatrical assassination of Julius Caesar and the real assassination of Lincoln are striking.
- ▶ Booth shot Lincoln in a theatre, and burst into Latin after killing the President, shouting "Sic Semper Tyrannus" (just as Caesar speaks Latin after being stabbed in a play). In the diary, written while on the run from the authorities, Booth noted: "After being hunted like a dog through swamps, woods, and last night being chased by gun-boats till I was forced to return wet cold and starving, with every man's hand against me, I am here in despair. And why? For doing what Brutus was honoured for."