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Manga Shakespeare: As You Like It



Synopsis

Othello and As You Like It are the newest additions to the imaginative world of Manga Shakespeare. In the face of the false evidence produced by the conniving Iago, Othello cannot trust his wife, and his mistrust leads to the play's tragic conclusion. In As You Like It, Rosalind, dressed like a boy, falls in love with Orlando. A mistaken-identity comedy follows, with a happy ending (or the ultimate justice served) for those who deserve it. Both plays have been refreshingly updated in the style of manga while maintaining Shakespeare's beautiful language. F&P level: Z

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up • Shakespeare's romantic comedy takes place in a contemporary setting in which Asian characters reside in the forest of Ar-Den. Full-color images accompanied by a brief Shakespearean quote provide a delightful introduction to the multiple players who will encounter one another in the forest. These vibrant pages conclude with a spread of the final romantic attachments, leaving no doubt about the happy conclusion. Many aspects of this play work especially well in a manga format. The story is vividly brought to life as readers observe the emotional tension between Oliver and Orlando; the close relationship between Rosalind and Celia; and the high-action wrestling match between Charles and Orlando. Readers are made aware that this is an intelligent woman who knows her own mind. Using an entirely different style of graphic art

for Jacques' famous "All the world's a stage" speech, Corin's account of the slaying of the deer and Oliver's retelling of Orlando's encounter with the lion help readers visualize these "stories within the story." Teens unfamiliar with the original may require supplemental material to appreciate this comedy fully because of its complicated plot, multiple characters, mistaken identities, and cross-dressing. Those who have prior exposure to it or who are willing to invest in some background preparation will enjoy this delightful re-creation of Shakespeare's exploration of the tractable nature of the human heart and the delights of love. — Barbara M. Moon, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

If Charles and Mary Lamb were reworking *Tales from Shakespeare* today, they might have developed something like this take from the Manga Shakespeare line. While maintaining considerable Shakespearian language, the plot is staged in a thoroughly manga manner, with Japanese settings, hairstyles, and posturing readily recognizable to the contemporary teen manga fan. Oliver, for instance, is not only sullen but also wears his long hair in an ominous cascade across the right side of his face and rides in a chauffeured vehicle: he is the embodiment of a tyrannical character in wholly twenty-first-century manga trappings. The plot summary at the book's end is straightforward, and readers would be well served to read that first if they know nothing about the original story. All in all, this is an excellent choice not only as curriculum support but also for manga readers who have no overt interest in connecting their comics reading to a familiarization with Shakespeare. Grades 8-10. --Francisca Goldsmith

I have always used the Cambridge Shakespeare in my middle school Literature class. It is an excellent version for an introduction to Shakespeare!

The item was in great condition Thanks a lot

I got this as a novelty because I was in a production of *As You Like It*. The concept is cool, but it's not the best artwork ever. Any kid who likes manga and Shakespeare would get a kick out of these books.

Arrived in good time and as described. My young folk enjoy this series of manga as they like the spin on Shakespeare.

Great series! Piqued my kids' interest in Shakespeare

I like it because the pages weren't worn or ripped. It was also not folded or anything, and there weren't writings on it or anything.

The 6th graders were studying this play in my theater class, and showing them the anime version of it, de-mystified the language and the plot. I recommend it for this purpose. I have little experience with quality of anime art, so whether it's "good" or not in that vein, you'll have to judge for yourself.

Not what I wanted it to be.

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