

The Battle of Audacity and Wit

William Shakespeare -



-William Shakespeare is an English playwright, poet, and actor regarded as the greatest writer of all time, inventing many words in the English language (3)

- Most famous plays include: Hamlet, Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet(3)
- Explores deception as a way to accomplish something; the play is replete with and structured around all kinds of deception in the name of love(2)
- The character's fanciful way of speaking embodies what Renaissance courtiers strive for socially; speaking in a witty, seemingly effortless way induces respect and approval(2)
- Being a Shakespeare comedy, it had to have all the defining characteristics, such as mistaken identity and a wedding(3)

-At the time, a lot of importance was placed on a woman's honor, which meant having only platonic relationships before marriage; when Claudio accuses Hero of cheating in front of her wedding guests, it's humiliating and a big deal(2)

-Written in the middle of his career when his comedies became darker; hence it combines elements of amusement with serious musings on honor, shame, and court politics(2)

Both

-Both plays have prominent themes of abandonment and isolation; Laura is abandoned by her old love, James, Hero is left hanging by Claudio on her wedding day

-Both are very secular and are based off of everyday life (with a few plot twists, that is)

- Both explored some aspect of society at the time that could be discerned through symbolism and/or character's actions
- Both have a satisfying conclusion; both couples in Much Ado About Nothing clear up the confusion and have a double wedding; Tom from Glass Menagerie is freed of his duties to support his mom and sister, and Laura gains the self-esteem to achieve her goals

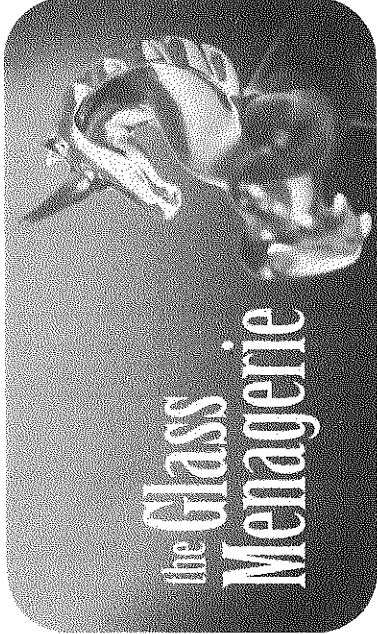
1. SparkNotes Editors. "SparkNote on The Glass Menagerie." SparkNotes LLC. 2003. <http://www.sparknotes.com/ll/menagerie/> (accessed October 29, 2014).

2. SparkNotes Editors. "SparkNote on Much Ado About Nothing." SparkNotes LLC. 2002. <http://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/muchado/> (accessed October 29, 2014).

3. "William Shakespeare," Famous Authors.org. <http://www.famousauthors.org/william-shakespeare/> (accessed November 16, 2014).

4. Shmoop Editorial Team. "The Glass Menagerie." Shmoop University, Inc. 11 November 2008. <http://www.shmoop.com/glass-menagerie/> (accessed November 16, 2014).

Tennessee Williams



-Tennessee Williams is an American playwright known for his sudden fame after writing The Glass Menagerie, which reflected his own unhappy past(1)

-Wrote: A Streetcar Named Desire, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Rose Tattoo(1)

- Both style and content are shaped by memory; for the characters, memory/nostalgia is a crippling force that prevents them from finding happiness, and the play is drawn from a character(Tom)'s memory(1)
- Characterized by its expressionism, lack of realism, and too-perfect symbolism(1)
- Portrayed in a highly stylized manner to communicate powerful truths(1)
- Main symbol is Laura's glass menagerie; symbolizes the imaginary, alluring, yet fragile world she deludes herself in (1)

-Main character, Laura, is based on Tennessee's sister, whom he became close to when his family fell apart (1)

-Tennessee's grandpa wasted the family fortune, his father was a heavy drinker, and his mother was subject to hysterical attacks; he himself was a social outcast and this reflected in his play, filled with drama and bleakness(1)

-Took place during the Great Depression; each character represents a societal group with its own set of hardships(4)