



HARRY RANSOM
CENTER



Shakespeare in Print and Performance

Name _____ Date _____

THE HARRY RANSOM CENTER is a humanities research library and museum. Current exhibitions are on display in the galleries on the first floor. The Gutenberg Bible and the First Photograph are on permanent display in the lobby. The Ransom Center is free and open to the public.



In the Gallery

Shakespeare in Print and Performance

Explore the legacy of William Shakespeare at the Harry Ransom Center. This exhibition provides insight into the origins of his works, the history of their publication and performance, the manner in which the texts have been studied on the page, and the plays interpreted on the stage. The Elizabethan world of Shakespeare and his contemporaries is presented through early printed books documenting his contemporary reputation, his textual sources, and his plays. Costume and set designs, promptbooks, and other ephemera showcase the variety of ways artists have translated his plays into performance.

1. Before entering the exhibition, list a few things you already know about Shakespeare.

2. At the start of the exhibition, you'll find two cases about "Shakespeare and His Contemporaries." Using specific objects in those cases, craft three statements about the context in which Shakespeare was working.



HARRY RANSOM
CENTER



6. Near the back corner of the exhibition you'll find two different walls that feature Donald Wolfitt's 1946 production of *King Lear* and Norman Bel Geddes' 1917 drawings for a proposed production of the same play. Compare these two concepts for the play and discuss how variations in the two styles may have affected the performances.

7. Identify the object in this exhibition that most interests you. Describe the object and explain your connection to it.

8. After having explored *Shakespeare in Print and Performance*, identify a connection between these collections and the themes of your course.

21st and Guadalupe Streets
The University of Texas at Austin
512-471-8944
www.hrc.utexas.edu

Gallery hours

10 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday, Friday
10 a.m.–7 p.m. Thursday
Noon–5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
Closed Mondays.

Reading and Viewing Room Hours

9 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Saturday

Tours

Free public tours are offered daily at noon,
Saturdays at 2 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Further Research

The Reading and Viewing Room, located on the second floor, serves readers requiring use of the Center's manuscripts, rare books, and visual materials.

Learn more

Connect with the Ransom Center on facebook at www.facebook.com/ransomcenter, on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/ransomcenter> or on our blog at www.hrc.utexas.edu/culturalcompass.