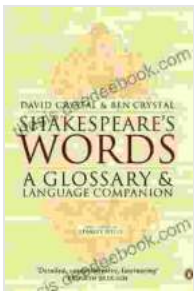


Shakespeare's Words: A Glossary and Language Companion to the Bard's Works

William Shakespeare, the acclaimed playwright and poet, crafted a literary legacy that continues to captivate audiences worldwide. His masterful use of language, rich in complexity and beauty, has left an enduring mark on the English language. Yet, his Elizabethan English can often pose challenges to contemporary readers, potentially hindering a full appreciation of his literary works.



Shakespeare's Words: A Glossary and Language Companion by David Crystal

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English

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Screen Reader : Supported

Word Wise : Enabled

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This comprehensive glossary and language companion aims to bridge that gap, providing a thorough exploration of Shakespeare's unique vocabulary and linguistic nuances. Delve into the meanings behind his enigmatic words, phrases, and idioms, unlocking the secrets of his literary genius.

The Archaic Language of Shakespeare

Shakespeare wrote during the Elizabethan era, a time when the English language was undergoing significant changes. Many words and phrases that were commonplace then have since become obsolete or have evolved in meaning. This glossary serves as a guide to these archaic terms, shedding light on their original usage and significance.

For example, the word "anon" meant "immediately" or "soon" in Shakespeare's time, a usage that differs from its modern meaning of "anonymous." Similarly, the word "knave" was commonly used to refer to a mischievous or dishonest person, rather than its current association with playing cards.

Idioms and Figurative Language

Shakespeare was a master of figurative language, employing metaphors, similes, and other literary devices to create vivid imagery and convey complex emotions. This glossary deciphers the meanings behind these often-obscure expressions, enabling readers to fully grasp the depth and richness of his writing.

For instance, the phrase "to take arms against a sea of troubles" (from Hamlet) is a powerful metaphor that depicts the struggle against overwhelming adversity. Another example is the simile "Her eyes, like stars, did sparkle in the dark" (from Romeo and Juliet), which beautifully captures the radiance and brilliance of the female character's eyes.

Pronunciation and Etymology

In addition to defining Shakespeare's words, this companion also provides insights into their pronunciation and etymology. This information allows

readers to better understand the historical context of the language and its evolution over time.

For example, the word "wrench" was pronounced as "renk" in Shakespeare's day, reflecting its Middle English roots. Similarly, the word "prick" originally meant "to pierce" or "to puncture," a usage that differs from its modern slang connotation.

Usage Examples from Shakespeare's Works

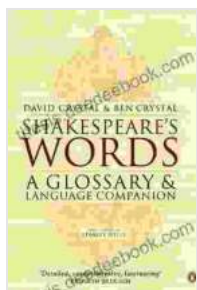
Throughout the glossary, numerous examples are drawn directly from Shakespeare's plays and poems, demonstrating the actual usage of the words and phrases in context. This practical approach allows readers to visualize the terms in action and gain a deeper understanding of their application.

For instance, the definition of the word "antic" includes an example from Hamlet: "This antic disposition... / May show a great affection in his dream." This quote provides a clear illustration of the word's meaning ("a bizarre or eccentric person") within the context of the play.

Shakespeare's Words: A Glossary and Language Companion is an indispensable tool for anyone seeking to fully engage with the literary genius of William Shakespeare. This comprehensive guide unlocks the mysteries of his language, enhancing our understanding and appreciation of his enduring masterpieces.

Whether you are a student, scholar, theater enthusiast, or simply a lover of language, this glossary will prove invaluable in your exploration of the

Bard's works. Immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of Shakespeare's words and discover the timeless beauty and profundity of his literary legacy.



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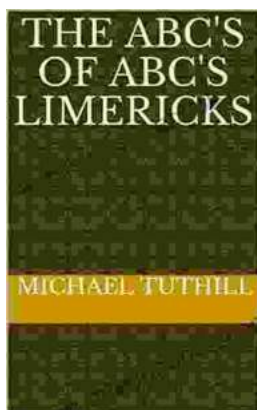
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