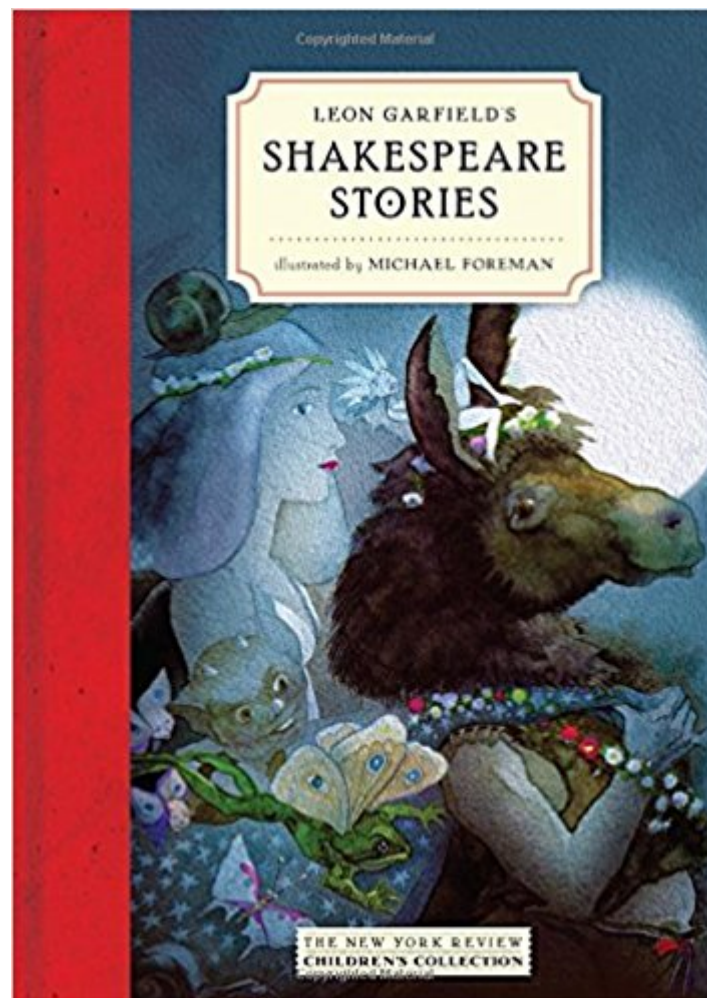




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# Leon Garfield's Shakespeare Stories (New York Review Books Children's Collection)



## Synopsis

How to introduce children to Shakespeare, not just to the stories behind the plays but to the richness of Shakespeare's language and the depth of his characters: That's the challenge that Leon Garfield, no slouch as a wordsmith himself, sets out to meet in his monumental and utterly absorbing Shakespeare Stories. Here twenty-one of the Bard's plays are refashioned into stories that are true to the wit, the humor, the wisdom, the sublime heights, the terrifying depths, and above all the poetry of their great originals. Throughout, Garfield skillfully weaves in Shakespeare's own words, accustoming young readers to language and lines that might at first seem forbiddingly unfamiliar. Leon Garfield's Shakespeare Stories is an essential distillation • a truly Shakespearean tribute to Shakespeare's genius and a delight for children and parents alike.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 4 Up • In this collection essential, first published in 1985, Garfield relates 21 of Shakespeare's most famous works in language that is accessible but never condescending or out of spirit with the Bard's original Elizabethan text. Leagues above CliffsNotes-style guides, Garfield manages to relay the tales of Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth, Julius Caesar, and more with grace and a masterly understanding of his audience. A must-have resource for any library supporting the study of Shakespeare and his works. • Kiera Parrott, School Library Journal

"In these lively and evocative pages a child will hear Shakespeare's poetry set in prose that will lay the groundwork for many a future enchanted evening at the theater."

—Meghan Cox Gurdon, *The Wall Street Journal*

"Leon Garfield's performance in Shakespeare Stories is masterly. The Merchant of Venice, The Taming of the Shrew, Twelfth Night, and A Midsummer Night's Dream best reveal the virtuosity Mr. Garfield has developed in many years of writing dozens of children's books and historical novels. In Mr. Garfield's deft narratives the laughter is the same that one finds in the plays, but so is the uneasiness. He gets the balances right."

—D. J. R. Bruckner, *The New York Times*

"Here is an alternative to yellow study guides, one in which explication is available in the graceful prose. Garfield's seamless movement between his own descriptive language and Shakespeare's has never worked better."

—Sally Margolis, *School Library Journal*

"The most accessible introduction to the Bard ever."

—Woman & Home

Five star review with qualifications. I think the book is said to be written for children fourth grade and up. I can't imagine fourth graders -- except perhaps the very top 1% -- could handle this book. Middle school is probably the appropriate audience. (Of course, when the author wrote this book, things were a bit different, and perhaps fourth graders back in 1975 could have read this book). I was hoping for a preface, a foreword, an introduction, something from the author or the editors on the book -- just some talking points, but nothing. It jumps right into the stories. Sort of feels like "Grimm's Fairy Tales." I think the book deserved a bit more than that -- a four-page introduction would have been nice. Having said that, the book jumps right into the stories and the little I have read, the author seems to have done a good job. It looks like everyday prose, but the dialogue: direct quotes from the Shakespeare plays. The best thing about the book: textbook size so easily carried and held by little hands. Not the big coffee-table book one might expect. No dust jacket. I give it 5-star with qualifications because I doubt there is a better book for the intended audience out there and I don't want to scare off any potential buyers by giving it a 4. If you can find something better for middle school students, let me know.

Great introduction to our 11 year old to Shakespeare and wonderful re-introduction to the parents!! :) Language is simplified so that kids can grasp the sentences, but still flowery enough to keep the original flavor intact. Our son has really, really enjoyed the stories and we've been watching the movies as we complete the plays. Now he's been going around saying "Oh! Spite"... LOL. Definitely recommend it. Already did that on social media as well! :)

Leon Garfield has done a great job of providing the themes of Shakespeare in an instantly accessible form that I found delightful. Shakespeare's works are an insightful analysis of humanity but they are also an intricately artful demonstration of language. For my eyes, Mr Garfield has given us a taste of both in his book. I am thrilled to be reading and discussing Hamlet, The Twelfth Night, Henry IV etc with my twelve year old - I couldn't have imagined a better introduction for him.

We learn a Shakespeare play that will be performed by our local Shakespeare in the Park group and this is a great resource for introducing Shakespeare to children. There is also an animated series which goes with the book (check your library). I love using both.

I have never seen anything like this amazing book that brings Shakespeare to life for kids and adults who are entertained by these classic stories in a new way. I love it!

This volume is not watered down. It keeps the vibrancy of The Bard's language. Highly recommended!

Got this at the suggestion of a dear friend, and have begun reading to tween son. It's not Shakespeare at the Globe, but so far, we love it.

Kids love it.

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