

# Comedy, tragedy, history, or what?

COMEDIES	TRAGEDIES	ENGLISH HISTORIES
<i>As You Like It</i>	<i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>	<i>King John</i>
<i>Comedy of Errors</i>	<i>Coriolanus</i>	<i>Richard the Second</i>
<i>Love's Labor's Lost</i>	<i>Hamlet</i>	<i>Henry the Fourth, part 1</i>
<i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i>	<i>Julius Caesar</i>	<i>Henry the Fourth, part 2</i>
<i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	<i>King Lear</i>	<i>Henry the Fifth</i>
<i>Much Ado about Nothing</i>	<i>Macbeth</i>	<i>Henry the Sixth, part 1</i>
<i>Taming of the Shrew</i>	<i>Othello</i>	<i>Henry the Sixth, part 2</i>
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	<i>Henry the Sixth, part 3</i>
<i>Two Gentlemen of Verona</i>	<i>Titus Andronicus</i>	<i>Richard the Third</i>
		<i>Henry the Eighth</i>

A **comedy** does not necessarily mean it's funny—just that no one dies and people get married in the end. Some of the plays originally labeled as Comedies are now in the Problem Plays.

In a **tragedy**, almost everyone is dead by the end of the play.

The English **histories** are based on true historical characters and events. They happen in the order listed here. Also see the History link on the Resources page.

PROBLEM PLAYS	ROMANCE PLAYS
<i>All's Well that Ends Well</i>	<i>Cymbeline</i>
<i>Measure for Measure</i>	<i>Pericles</i>
<i>Merchant of Venice</i>	<i>The Tempest</i>
<i>Timon of Athens</i>	<i>The Winter's Tale</i>
<i>Troilus and Cressida</i>	

A **problem play** is one that does not neatly fit into the forms of comedy, tragedy, or history. They tend to have darker psychological drama and more difficult moral issues than a comedy, but few people die in the end so they are not tragedies.

A **romance play** does not mean it's romantic; the phrase comes from medieval narratives that relate the legendary or extraordinary adventures of some hero of chivalry. These Shakespearean plays tend to be more adventurous but with tragic undertones.