

Hello – nice to meet you all. My name is Elizabeth Daisy and I've come to recommend a few of my favourite plays to you. Oh, but I must not be rude, let me tell you more about myself. I come from a very upper class family and have a lovely husband, Charles. We both greatly respect the Queen and every decision she makes for our country. After all, she is said to be one of the most outstanding scholars of our time, and of course our mighty Queen has been sent by our powerful God and is said to be high on the chain of being.

I like to watch plays at our local theatre. They are very entertaining and, of course, they help to teach valuable lessons in the journey of life. (2) Luckily our Queen also loves the theatre and, because of her, there are always many plays on at the Globe, for all actors love performing for the Queen. Can you believe what an honour it would be to perform for the great Queen Elizabeth herself?

When watching these plays there is always an advantage to being wealthy. You get to sit in an upstairs gallery and get all the spectacular views. More lower class people get the ground level seats. One of my favourite plays that I saw not too long ago was 'The Taming of the Shrew'. This was written by the famous writer William Shakespeare and contained varied rhyme schemes and contained prose and sentences measured in iambic pentameter. (1)

Another of his plays that I enjoyed thoroughly was Hamlet. It is such an exciting and chilling tale of what can happen if you upset the Great Chain of Being. (2)

Luckily my husband and I have managed to provide two of the actors from the theatre to come talk to you today. I am sure they can shed some more light into their situation and plays.

Good afternoon all, I thought I would just pop in after my afternoon studies of Latin and Music. As you all may know I am Bianca Minola from the play *Taming of the Shrew*. I am the daughter of Baptista, sister of Katarina. I am so exhausted; my father has me doing so much lately, which is actually not very common. He believes that by me being more knowledgeable, he will receive a better dowry price and therefore more money even though he is one of the richest men in Padua. I do not know why he bothers though; I already have many wealthy suitors that have begged my father for my hand in marriage. (3) However, my father is very insistent that he will not find a husband for his youngest daughter until he has found one for the elder. So it is very unfortunate for me and my father because my sister is such a terrible shrew. Whilst I am believed to have mild behaviour and sobriety, my sister is known for her quick wit and sharp tongue. She is not very kind to anyone and does not agree with the Puritan doctrine that claims that all women have to obey men. (3) Lucky for me that my father found the perfect suitor for my sister and now she is married to a lovely young man called Petruchio. Petruchio has taught my sister well and she has slowly started obeying him more and more. He has accomplished this by manipulating Katarina.

It is a very clever way of 'Taming the Shrew' I suppose. He has taken away her food, water and nice clothes until she will obey him. And have you seen the horrendous rags she is made to wear. Disgraceful, I would never be seen looking like that. My father's wealth and my behaviour mean that I always have the finest clothes and am therefore seen as more attractive. It is lucky that Katarina already has a husband. This means that I can now marry the man I love – Lucentio. That's if my father accepts him of course. I hope that Lucentio can offer a high dowry price because I really do not want to marry the old Grumio. But I have no choice, it is ultimately my father's decision on who I shall and shall not marry. I wish that was not the case. Sometimes I wish I could stand up to my father. Oh no, my father's calling. I'm sorry but I must hurry off. (4)

Hello all, I am afraid I cannot be long. I have to keep an eye out for the traitor, King Claudius. I do not trust him at all. My name is Prince Hamlet, son of Queen Gertrude and the late King Hamlet. You look like trustful folk so I will explain my plans to you. My father was murdered, not too long ago, by my uncle Claudius. How do I know this you ask? Recently I was visited by the ghost of my father. You see he said I had to get revenge on the person who killed him. He said Claudius had poured poison into his ear and that the only way he can move on to heaven is if I kill the great King Claudius himself. So, I will avenge his death if it is the last thing I do. How can no one see what a fake he is? And my mother, my poor, naïve, incestuous mother married Claudius and told me not to mourn my own father's death. (5)

I thought I had the perfect moment before but I caught him praying. There is no way I am going to kill him while he is asking God for forgiveness for his sins, for then he will be sent to heaven and not to hell which is where he belongs. **(6)** He deserves to burn.

He was only praying because he felt guilty – I had professional actors play a scene portraying the murder of my father. The reason that I did this was that I hoped it would provoke a reaction from Claudius. React he did. He ran out of the room and that's when I found him praying, proving he was guilty'. Soon enough he will sin again, maybe with my mother, maybe not. When he does, I will be there waiting.