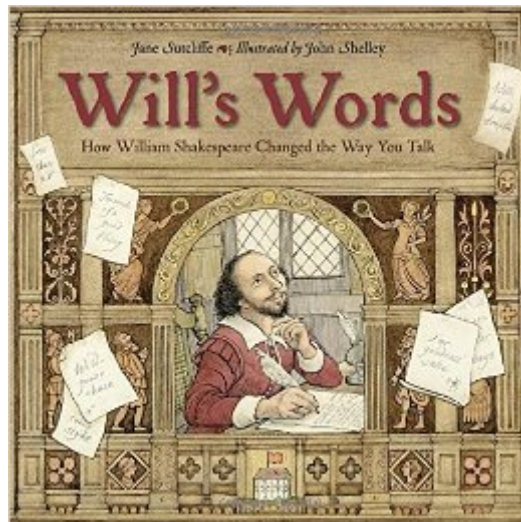


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# Will's Words: How William Shakespeare Changed The Way You Talk



## Synopsis

When Jane Sutcliffe sets out to write a book about William Shakespeare and the Globe Theatre, in her own words, she runs into a problem: Will's words keep popping up all over the place! What's an author to do? After all, Will is responsible for such familiar phrases as "what's done is done" and "too much of a good thing." He even helped turn "household words" into household words. But, Jane embraces her dilemma, writing about Shakespeare, his plays, and his famous phrases with glee. After all, what better words are there to use to write about the greatest writer in the English language than his very own? As readers will discover, "the long and the short of it" is this: Will changed the English language forever. Backmatter includes an author's note, a bibliography, and a timeline.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0750 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

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Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #305,977 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #52 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Drama & Theater #93 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary Criticism & Collections #115 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Literary

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## Customer Reviews

Summary: A letter from the author at the beginning of the book tells her dilemma: in trying to tell the story of William Shakespeare and the Globe Theater, she kept running into Will's words.

Shakespeare created and/or popularized so many words and phrases that it's almost impossible to tell a story without using some of them. She then proceeds with her original task on the left-hand pages, bolding Will's words. The right-hand pages explain the history of those words and where

they appear in Shakespeare's plays. A final author's letter tells a bit more about William Shakespeare, mostly how little we know of him. A time line and bibliography are also included at the end. 40 pages; grades 3-6. Pros: A nice introduction to Shakespeare's plays and the Globe Theater, with the added element of looking at the impact these plays had on the English language. The illustrations do a wonderful job of conveying the enthusiastic audiences crowded into the theater and the exuberant actors preparing and performing the shows. Cons: Although this book is targeted to an elementary audience, I couldn't help feeling it would be more appreciated by older students studying Shakespeare's works.

A very fascinating book. Light and beautiful with its full page illustrations. The whole story seems to be a touristic presentation of London in Shakespeare's days and the attempt of drawing twenty-nine words from everyday street or theater life and look for them in Shakespeare's plays, find them, explain them and indicate where they come from, which play they have been extracted from. Some of these phrases are still commonly used, others have become obsolete. The author tries to remain as politically correct as possible and does not mention that you can easily hear "For Goodness sake" in the place of "For God's sake" among people who still abide by the commandment that says "Thou shalt not use the name of the Lord in vain." The funnier element is that every phrase is illustrated with a short summary of the situation in which it was used in the precise play it is coming from. But the author does not give the quotation and that is a shame. We have the Canada Dry of the advertisement but it is no Scotch. Too bad because it is always better to speak to the Lord rather than to his angels. A book that can be a nice present to someone who likes pictures and slightly exotic pieces of knowledge. You can also visit the reconstructed Globe and imagine what it was in the old days. Dr Jacques COULARDEAU

Will's Words: How William Shakespeare Changed the Way You Talk is both a fun and interesting introduction to Elizabethan theater and Shakespeare's place in it. What a fantastic introduction for young adults or older children. The book is set up as a guide to what theatergoers of the time experienced and through this guide also introduces us to words and phrases that Shakespeare either used for the first time/created or saved from linguistic obscurity. All of those mentioned in this book are still part of our common speech today. Sutcliffe also provides citations to the specific plays, acts, etc where they can be found. The illustrations are evocative of what I imagine the original Globe theater and crowd to be: busy, people of many classes, appearing to be a noisy and boisterous atmosphere. I would definitely recommend this for any older child or young adult

interested in the theater in any way (and their adult companions would very likely enjoy it too). There is an accompanying timeline of Shakespeare's life and a biography which appears to be oriented more toward adult works, (though I am not familiar with them all). There are some great books on the list which I plan to read. A copy of this book was provided by the publisher through NetGalley in return for an honest review.

**WILL'S WORDS: HOW WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE CHANGED THE WAY YOU TALK** by Jane Sutcliffe is an informational picture book explore the impact of Shakespeare on the English language. Designed for intermediate grade students, the book begins with a letter from the author explaining that the focus of the book is on Shakespeare's fascinating words and phrases. This beautifully illustrated picture book immerses readers in the time period, while weaving Shakespeare's famous words into the narrative. Phrases like "too much of a good thing" and "wild-goose chase" are a couple examples of the many words made famous by this famous playwright. The book features sidebars containing Shakespeare's words, their meaning, and where they can be found in his work. The book concludes with a second letter from the author, a timeline, and a bibliography. Librarians will find this book to be a fun and engaging way to introduce young readers to Shakespeare's world and his love of wordplay. Place the book in a learning center along with other books about Shakespeare, online resources, and a hands-on activity involving his famous phrases. Published by Charlesbridge on March 22, 2016. ARC courtesy of the publisher.

We were just talking to our daughter about Shakespeare's influence on the English language. We hosted a family gathering at our home a couple weeks ago and a few expressions were said that our daughter needed to have further explained. It led to talk of Shakespeare and what a huge impact he had on the way we talk, even today. "Will's Words" is an exciting compilation of Will's words, what they meant and where they came from. Some picked up in taverns and street corners. Some brand new words he made up himself. All blended together and brilliantly executed in his plays. A really wonderful book that everyone in the family can learn from. I received this book for free in exchange for my honest opinions. I was in no way compensated for this review. My opinions are honest and my own.

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