

# Shakespearean Criticism (SC)

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*Shakespearean Criticism* covers a wide variety of information related to Shakespeare's drama and poetry, including historical overviews, criticisms on particular works, and critical approaches to themes within Shakespeare's works.

## Content and organization:

SC is unique in comparison to other Gale (Reference) literature series because it focuses solely on works of one author – William Shakespeare. In addition, the content and organization of SC is much more detailed and comprehensive. The focus and approach of a particular volume of SC is organized like this:

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|------------------------|--|
| Volumes 1 through 10:  | <b>Historical overview</b> and <b>critical response</b> to selected Shakespearean works  |
| Volumes 11 through 26: | <b>Historical information</b> and <b>criticism on various productions and adaptations</b> of Shakespeare plays                               |
| Volumes 27 through 56: | <b>Criticism after 1960</b> , a <b>topic or thematic approach</b> is taken with each volume (ex. politics and power is one entry in vol. 30) |
| Volumes 57 –current:   | <b>General criticism since 1990</b> and <b>other criticism not featured in previous volumes</b>  |

## Indexes:

SC's print indexes are the most useful resource for locating a wide range of topics on Shakespeare's plays. Although the (free, online) *Literary Index* can be consulted to find information on more general Shakespeare-related topics, these **cumulative** indexes\* are the best resource for locating more focused and detailed information. These indexes are repeated, and updated, at the back of all recent volumes of SC

- **Character Index:** includes those characters discussed in the criticism, play, or non-dramatic poem
- **Topic Index:** includes the main topics in the "criticism and stage history of each work."
- **Topic Index by Play:** includes main topics in the "criticism and stage history of each work arranged by play."

### \* Special Note:

Occasionally, plays and topics appearing in the most recent volume of SC will not appear in the online version of the *Literary Index*. For example, although there is an entry on *The Taming of the Shrew* in vol. 64, it is not listed in the *Literary Index*.

Source: Preface. Shakespearean Criticism. Project Ed. Lynn m. Zott. Shakespearean Criticism. 71. Detroit: Gale, 2003. Print.