

An extract from Harry's Final Assignment

Name: Harry Jarvis

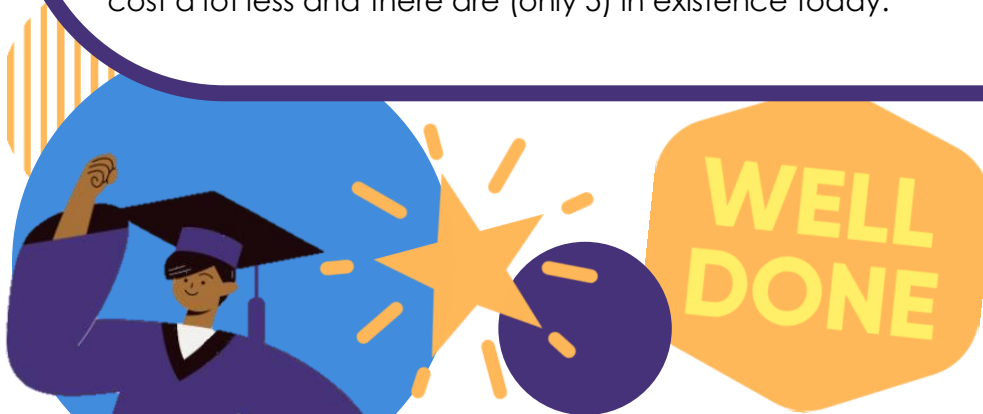
Year Group: Year 9 (2024-2025)

Scholars Programme Course: "Shakespeare or not Shakespeare? That is the question".

Assignment Title / Question: Which version of Romeo and Juliet is the most reliable?

The First Folio came around when two of the actors and friends, Henry Condell and John Hemmings, from Shakespeare's plays after his death decided to get all the manuscripts and with the Romeo and Juliet play erase all of the false starts from the play. The First Folio has many strengths and weaknesses when it comes to reliability, a strength for example is the fact that two of Shakespeare's friends and actors created the First Folio. This is a strength because it was two people who were in the plays and would know where missing lines went or where to put a line that was not included. Another strength is when Shakespeare died on 23rd April 1616, he left ten pounds each to his three best friends: Richard Burbage, Henry Condell and John Hennings to buy mourning rings. However, when Richard Burbage (biggest named actor in London at the time) died, it left John Hennings and Henry Condell to make the First Folio. So, with the ten pounds they received to buy mourning rings, they used it to publish the First Folio buying copy right off people. So, Henry Condell was gathering Shakespeare's plays to put them together and send to a printer (Issac Jaggard) including Romeo and Juliet Quarto 3 version.

Another strength is that they used the Quarto 3 version of Romeo and Juliet. This was good because they took all of the false starts out of Quarto 2 and made it into Quarto 3, meaning it had no repeating lines making it more reliable. As it would be able to perform on stage without any repetition of lines. Meaning it would not be confusing to the audience. Another strength to the reliability of the first folio was that it was aimed at rich people because it was very expensive and costs a few months wages for some people. It was reliable because rich people back then took care of their books because they had a library. You can see this because over a third of the First Folios are still here today and only 5 quarto 1s, because they weren't cheap but cost a lot less and there are (only 5) in existence today.



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