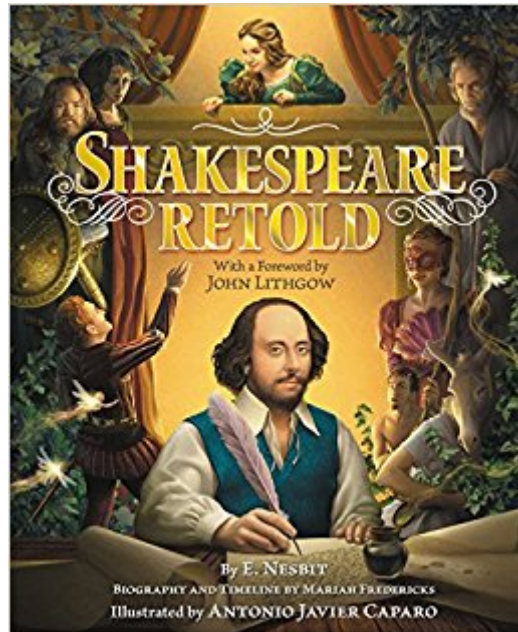




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# Shakespeare Retold



## Synopsis

A beautifully illustrated collection of prose retellings of seven Shakespeare plays will bring the Bard to life for young readers. Not only is this a beautiful keepsake edition, full of gorgeous illustrations by Antonio Javier Caparo, but the prose retellings by beloved classic children's book author E. Nesbit are an excellent tool to introduce children to the complex language of Shakespeare. A foreword by John Lithgow touches on his own childhood as a Shakespearean actor and the importance of Shakespeare. The book contains extensive support materials, including a biography, a timeline of Shakespeare's life, and further recommended readings. In this volume, you will find: Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Twelfth Night, Hamlet, Macbeth, The Tempest, Much Ado About Nothing.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 128 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins (October 18, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062404539

ISBN-13: 978-0062404534

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 0.6 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #537,402 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > European #1318 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts #3194 in Books > Children's Books > Classics

Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

## Customer Reviews

Gr 2-6 • In an attractive arrangement, this volume presents four comedies and three tragedies by William Shakespeare in short story format. The text, by the late British author Nesbit, retells the basic plots of the plays in a gentle, fairy-tale style. Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth, and Hamlet are still full of conflict and death, but the details are softened for the audience. At the beginning of each piece, the cast of characters and the scene are identified, along with a famous quote. The artwork, created with Adobe Photoshop, helps children picture the settings. To provide further context, the text includes a biographical sketch of Shakespeare, a time line of his life and

works, and recommended resources that list modern and adapted versions of the plays as well as DVDs and websites. Bruce Coville's picture book retellings of Shakespeare's works have longer texts and more numerous illustrations than this title. VERDICT Libraries that already own Tina Packer's *Tales from Shakespeare* would find this new volume somewhat redundant. Otherwise, this selection offers an inviting gateway into these classics. —Lucinda Snyder Whitehurst, St. Christopher's School, Richmond, VA

Edith Nesbit Bland (1858-1924) published most of her work under the signature of E. Nesbit and wrote or collaborated on more than sixty books for children. Her works include *The Railway Children*, *The Story of the Treasure Seekers*, and *The Wouldbegoods*.

After a day of visiting Shakespeare's house E. Nesbit took great joy in telling her children all about The Bard. As they were looking over a book of his famous plays, the children quickly became disillusioned after reading a few pages. The children had a hard time understanding the words that Shakespeare used. So, in an effort to help the children understand, she told the story of *A Midsummer's Night's Dream* in her own words. After she had finished telling the tale, the children were delighted. They encouraged Nesbit to write the story in her own words so that they might understand them better. And she did. Which is why we have the wonderful book: *Shakespeare Retold*. I read this book to my children when they were younger. Not this edition, of course, but I wish it had been. This beautiful book has a forward from John Lithgow. He talks about his history with Shakespeare. He spent his summers around an outdoor festival where his father would produce Shakespeare's plays. The plays became the story of his childhood and no doubt influenced his desire to be an actor. In addition to John Lithgow's introduction, this book is also illustrated by the illustrious Antonio Javier Caparo, who has lent his talents to many other children's books. His illustrations make a wonderful addition to this book. E. Nesbit has written many wonderful books for children. My favorite is *The Railway Children*. I can't imagine someone other than E. Nesbit writing these stories. She does a fantastic job making these plays accessible to the young. She writes in a plain, easy-to-understand style that children will understand. This book includes: *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *The Tempest*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. This book will expose children to Shakespeare's timeless plays and hopefully foster a lifelong love for The Bard. *Shakespeare Retold* is a treasure!

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