

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Thematic Relevance Evaluation: Shakespeare Today

## 1. Context & Themes 🧠👉

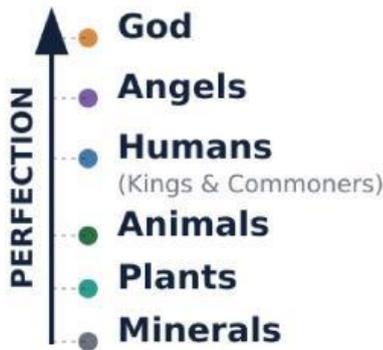
William Shakespeare (1564–1616) remains a central figure in literature. He was a **playwright**, a **poet** (famous for his sonnets), and an **actor**. His works were performed at the open-air **Globe Theater** in London during the Elizabethan Age.



The video argues that his works focus on fundamental human experiences that transcend time. Before evaluating his relevance today, we must identify these core topics.

1. According to the text, what are the four "general basic topics" or themes that Shakespeare's works usually deal with?

## 2. Worldview: The Great Chain of Being 🔗



The Elizabethan society believed in a god-given hierarchy known as the **Great Chain of Being**. Everyone had a specific place, from Kings down to plants.

2. How does this concept relate to the plots of Shakespeare's plays? (Hint: What happens when the order is challenged?)

## 3. The Debate: Is Shakespeare Still Relevant? ⚖️

The video presents arguments both **for** and **against** teaching Shakespeare in modern schools. Read the arguments below and classify them by checking the correct column.

Argument from Text	PRO (Keep)	CON (Remove)
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Themes like love and hate are universal and timeless.		
Early Modern English creates a significant language barrier.		
Plays have been successfully adapted into modern movies and TV.		
The plays often lack diversity (male, white experience).		
Reading the texts provides historical insight into the Elizabethan age.		
Social norms (e.g., status of women) are outdated and hard to relate to.		

#### 4. Critical Evaluation



**Focus on: Revenge**

The speaker suggests that while Love is timeless, the theme of **Revenge** might be "outdated" or less important in our modern society.

**3.** Do you agree that **Revenge** is an outdated theme? Can you think of a modern movie, TV show, or real-life situation where revenge is still a central motivation? Explain.

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**4. Final Verdict:** Based on the evidence above, write a short paragraph recommending whether Shakespeare should remain on the school curriculum for 11th grade students in Moldova.

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## Answer Key

### 1. Context & Themes 🧠🗨️

**Answer:**

Love, Jealousy, Betrayal, Revenge

### 2. Worldview: The Great Chain of Being 🔗

**Answer:**

Plots often involve this natural order being challenged (chaos), and the story resolves when the order is restored.

### 3. The Debate: Is Shakespeare Still Relevant? ⚖️

Pro: Universal themes, Adaptations, Historical insight. Con: Language barrier, Lack of diversity, Outdated norms.

### 4. Critical Evaluation 🧠

**Answer:**

Student's own opinion. Should reference modern media (e.g., John Wick, superhero movies) or social conflicts.

**Answer:**

Open ended. Students must weigh the 'Pros' (cultural impact, themes) against the 'Cons' (language, diversity).