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Shakespeare's Contemporaries — notes on their life and work, with examples from Christopher Marlowe's Doctor Faustus and Thomas Kyd's The Spanish Tragedy

The Origins of Shakespeare's Theatre — university plays, miracle plays and mummers' plays

Shakespeare in his Historical Context — the main historical events in Shakespeare's lifetime with a timeline

The Background of Shakespeare's History Plays — what you need to know about history to understand Shakespeare's history plays

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Ordinary Life in Elizabethan and Jacobean England — notes on food, clothes, hygiene, work, travel, religion, law and order, etc.

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Important Figures in Drama Theory — notes on influential directors and theatrical innovators of the 20th and 21st centuries

Types of Theatre and Theatre Spaces — performances spaces used in theatre today

Synopses and Media — Brief synopses of all Shakespeare's plays with lists of related visual and audio media as well as a list of media related to his life and work

[Michael Mitchell]