

Contents

- 1 The Elizabethan and Jacobean Scene 9**
- 2 William Shakespeare 18**
- 3 Shakespeare: Comedy 28**
 - The Comedy of Errors 31
 - The Two Gentlemen of Verona 36
 - The Taming of the Shrew 40 Love's Labour's Lost 45
 - A Midsummer Night's Dream 50
 - The Merchant of Venice 57
 - Much Ado about Nothing 64
 - As You Like It 70 Twelfth Night 75
- 4 Shakespeare: Dark Comedy 82**
 - Measure for Measure 83 All's Well that Ends Well 91
 - Troilus and Cressida 97
- 5 Shakespeare: Poetry 103**
 - Venus and Adonis 104 The Rape of Lucrece 107
 - The Sonnets 110
- 6 Shakespeare: English History 122**
 - Richard III 125 Richard II 132
 - Henry IV, Part One 138 Henry IV, Part Two 145
 - Henry V 150
- 7 Shakespeare: Roman History 157**
 - Julius Caesar 158 Antony and Cleopatra 164
 - Coriolanus 171

8 Shakespeare: Tragedy 177

Titus Andronicus 181 Romeo and Juliet 185
Hamlet 191 Othello 198 King Lear 204
Macbeth 214 Timon of Athens 221

9 Shakespeare: Romance 227

Cymbeline 229 The Winter's Tale 237
The Tempest 243

10 Shakespeare and the Critics 252

11 Elizabethan Tragedy 258

Gorboduc, by Thomas Norton and
Thomas Sackville 260
The Spanish Tragedy, by Thomas Kyd 265
Christopher Marlowe 272
Tamburlaine the Great, Part One 273
Tamburlaine the Great, Part Two 279
The Jew of Malta 284 Doctor Faustus 290

12 Elizabethan and Jacobean Comedy 297

Ben Jonson 298 Volpone 301 The Alchemist 309
Bartholomew Fair 316 Beaumont and Fletcher 323
The Knight of the Burning Pestle 323 Philaster 330

13 Jacobean Tragedy 337

The Revenger's Tragedy, by Cyril Tourneur 338
John Webster 345 The White Devil 345
The Duchess of Malfi 352 Middleton and Rowley 358
Women Beware Women 359 The Changeling 365
'Tis Pity She's a Whore, by John Ford 371

Further Reading 377

Index 380