

## OED Assignment

Carefully (trying to find one for which this assignment will be productive) choose a passage of approximately 10 lines from our reading and look up all words you don't immediately understand or think there might be something funny going on with in the OED, along with maybe a couple of those you *do* know just to make sure there isn't anything you're missing. You may certainly look up words that are footnoted in our text, but the point is to find *multiple* possible meanings of words. Note any major relevant meanings or possible meanings. Don't just copy & paste: I want you to process meaning, not just move it around. The more thought you put into this, the more credit you get, so please don't make this a mechanical exercise if you want to get the most—for your own experience or for your grade—out of this assignment.

Due Thursday, 8/28

## Companion Assignment

I have placed two “companions” on reserve, and there's another one available in the reference area of the library. Please look through the Dobson and Kastan companions and choose one topic from each to read (it can be the same topic if you want to compare the way they treat them, or it can be different). Then use the McDonald companion and identify a contemporary document that's relevant to our reading so far to read. (It's okay to read the lead-in, but what I'm looking for in McDonald is not the modern description but the *primary document* from the Renaissance.) Please type up about a page (total) describing what you looked for, why you chose it, and what you found.

**Option:** If you were in my class last semester when we also did this assignment, you may replace the companions with Geoffrey Bullough's *Narrative and Dramatic Sources of Shakespeare*, [822.33 Fb876n](#). They're in the stacks, so please don't check them out or leave them lying around the library; do your work in the library and put the books away carefully when you're done (or photocopy what you need) so other students will still have access. Thanks.

Due Thursday, 9/4

Dobson, Michael, and Stanley Wells, eds. *The Oxford Companion to Shakespeare*. Oxford:

Oxford U P, 2001. Reference: PR2892 .O94 2001

Kastan, David Scott, ed. *A Companion to Shakespeare*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1999. Reserve

Collection: PR2910 .C66 1999

McDonald, Russ. *The Bedford Companion to Shakespeare: An Introduction with Documents*.

Boston: Bedford, 2001. Reserve Collection: PR2894 .M385 2001