

English Language Change

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View and discuss a sequence of books from the Library's historic collections. Explore texts from Caxton, Chaucer, Shakespeare, Johnson and others to illustrate developments in the history of the English Language.

Duration: 1.5 hours

Age range: A Level

Cost: Free

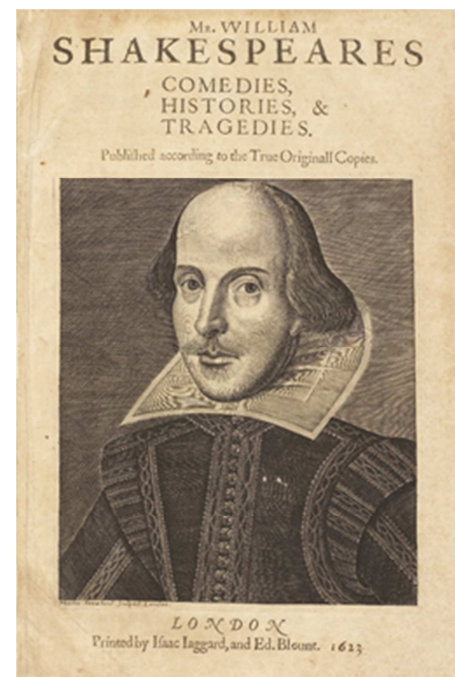
Max group size: 15

About the workshop

The workshop aims to enrich A Level English Language students' study of the topic of language change.

We will show a selection of printed books from the Library's collections as a prompt to discuss ways in which the English Language has changed since 1400. We also outline the role of the library in looking its collections of rare and historic books.

We conclude with a discussion about contemporary examples of language change and usage.



Further Information

The books we use in the workshop may change from time-to-time. We are currently using Caxton's Eneydos; a Chaucer's 'Works...' from 1598; a Victorian facsimile of the First Folio; a King James Bible; Johnson's Dictionary from 1755 and a Lindley Murray Grammar published in 1842.

Experience has shown that the workshop is a more engaging experience for the students if they have begun studies on the topic of English Language change beforehand, rather than serving as an introduction.

The workshop takes place in our education room and does not include time for the students to explore the rest of the library building. Let us know if you want to book a guided tour for your group(s). Alternatively, you may want to encourage the students to allow time to explore the library independently.