**Prefatory Note**

The materials in this collection came into existence while I was teaching Shakespeare plays fairly often, from 1984 through 2001. They are all in my voice and reflect my personal likes and dislikes as well as my professional training. Therefore, I would like your use of these materials with other people to include a tip of the hat to me, unless you have made them thoroughly your own instead of mine.

These materials are not original in some ways; much reading of published criticism of Shakespeare’s plays has been distilled in some of them. However, theory has had almost no influence on them, and Shakespeare studies published in the last twenty years have had absolutely none. I offer them for your use in the hope that the level of student they were designed to serve might still be served by them. That level is the average college student of adult age; most of my Shakespeare courses were taken by adults.

When I first thought about typing up handwritten notes and updating the format of notes on old disks, I assumed only my friends who were English teachers would be interested in them. Now that a plague is keeping many of us at home, I hope people can use these as aids to studying Shakespeare independently or in virtual book clubs. Therefore, I have called the syllabi Reading Lists, the assignments Discussion Questions, and so forth. Experienced teachers can easily restore the pedagogical language.

Nancy P. Pope, Ph.D.