

Shrew by the Numbers



Plays are, of course, comprised of words. Students of literature, drama, and history pore over the words of every act, scene, line, and syllable of Shakespeare's writings. But what about the numbers of the Bard? Just for mathematics fanatics, here are some numbers related to Shakespeare and *The Taming of the Shrew*.

4.23.1564/1516: dates of Shakespeare's birth/death (same day!)

965: lines in *The Taming of the Shrew*

1592-3: year the play was written

208: page number that *The Taming of the Shrew* begins on in the First Folio

6th: play written by Shakespeare

2nd: comedy (after *Comedy of Errors* in 1589)

34: characters in the full play (plus servants and players)

5: acts in the play

12: scenes in the play

2x: what Baptista does to Petruchio's dowry after Katharine is tamed

232: appearance of the word *that* (most frequent word)

586: lines spoken ("speaks") by Petruchio in the full play

1: known typesetting/transcription error—a "Hortensia" (Act I, scene 1)

3: named characters having only 1 line each

2: spellings of Katharine's name ("Katharina," "Katarina")

11: times Petruchio calls Katharine "Kate" immediately after she tells him not to