**Shakespearean Comedy**

William Shakespeare's plays may be grouped into three categories: *comedies, histories, and tragedies*. It is important to note that the term "comedy" didn't mean the same to Elizabethans as it does today. It is true that there is quite a bit of humour in Shakespeare's comedies, but the term often simply referred to a light-hearted play with a happy ending. This indicates that Shakespearean comedies are different from his more dramatic tragedies and history plays when it comes to tone and plot.

**Conventional plot elements in Shakespearean comedies:**

1. Funny?

Not necessarily but comic relief. Lower social order, mistaken identity, sexual puns

1. Setting:

The play starts in a civilized, ordered world and is moved to a pastoral (green) world where all traditional rules are broken

1. Plot: Classic narrative Arc – exposition, conflict, confusion, climax, resolution

Multiple subplots (play within a play)

1. Happy Ending

All plays end in Marriage, a play, a resolutions, disorder to order

1. Characters:

Not as well developed as tragedies. Mostly young and love challenged.