



Volpone

Author
Ben Jonson

First Performed
c. 1606

Original Language
English

THEMES

A Fox Tricks the Vultures Out of a Meal

In 17th-century Venice, conniving trickster Volpone and his quick-witted servant Mosca dupe three wealthy businessmen out of their fortunes. However, as greed overpowers Volpone and Mosca, their morality is corrupted, and they risk losing everything.



Greed & Corruption

The characters are motivated by greed, which turns them into fools.

Animal Fables

The play references fables by having a moral lesson and characters as animals.

Women's Roles

The female characters are historical and too emotional to be believed.

Author



BEN JONSON
1572–1637

Heralded as the second most influential playwright of the 17th century after William Shakespeare, Jonson became England's first poet laureate in 1616. Both renowned and reviled for his harshly satirical plays, Jonson's work explores themes of excess, greed, deception, and transformation.

Main Characters



Volpone

Italian for "fox"; wealthy nobleman; tricks wealthy businessmen out of their fortunes



Mosca

Italian for "fly"; Volpone's agile, intelligent servant; does his master's dirty work



Voltore

Italian for "vulture"; articulate lawyer; gives up his ethics to inherit Volpone's fortune



Corbaccio

Italian for "crow"; wealthy older man; hopes to become Volpone's heir

Symbols



Disease

Symbolizes corruption of the characters' morality



Venice

Represents greed, excess, and immorality



Animal Names

Stand for the characters' traits and roles in the story



What a rare punishment / Is avarice to itself!

Volpone, Act I, Scene IV

Study Guide On Volpone

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methods of legal anthropology with literary and historical analysis this study examines villainy across juridical documents criminal records and literary texts Whilst few people obtained justice through the law many pursued out of court settlements of one kind or another Literary texts commemorated villainies both fictitious and historical literature sometimes instantiated the process of redress and enabled the transmission of conflicts from one context to another Villainy in France follows this overflowing current of pre modern French culture examining its impact within France and across the English Channel Scholars and cultural critics of the Anglophone world have long been fascinated by villainy and villains This book reveals the subject s significant Frenchness and establishes a transcultural approach to it in law and literature In this study villainy s particular significance emerges through its representation in authors remembered for their less than respectable even criminal activities Fran ois Villon Cl ment Marot Fran ois Rabelais Pierre de L Estoile Christopher Marlowe Ben Jonson John Marston and George Chapman Villainy in France affords legal literary comparison of these authors alongside many of their lesser known contemporaries in so doing it reinterprets French conflicts within a wider European context from the mid fifteenth century to the early seventeenth century *Passionate Playgoing in Early Modern England* Allison P.

Hobgood,2014-01-23 Allison P Hobgood tells a new story about the emotional experiences of theatregoers in Renaissance England Through detailed case studies of canonical plays by Shakespeare Jonson Kyd and Heywood the reader will discover what it felt like to be part of performances in English theatre and appreciate the key role theatregoers played in the life of early modern drama How were spectators moved by delight fear or shame for example and how did their own reactions in turn make an impact on stage performances Addressing these questions and many more this book discerns not just how theatregoers were altered by drama s affective encounters but how they were undeniable influences upon those encounters Overall Hobgood reveals a unique collaboration between the English world and stage one that significantly reshapes the ways we watch read and understand early modern drama **American Book Publishing Record** ,1998 **A Complete**

Manual of English Literature Thomas Budd Shaw,1870 **Pietro Aretino: Subverting the System in Renaissance Italy** Raymond B. Waddington,2024-10-28 The essays gathered together in this volume follow the career of the sixteenth century courtier poet Pietro Aretino Part One introduces the author during the 1520s in Rome with his remarkable first comedy *La Cortigiana* With Aretino s move to Venice 1527 he found a congenial life long home in which he could flourish Yet the transition from courtier poet to poligrafo vernacular writer for the popular press was slow and difficult before he adopted a new career model derived from Erasmus even then he contemplated abandoning Italy for the Ottoman Empire Part Two examines his work as a satirist in the mid thirties with the *Ragionamenti* the dialogues that branded him a pornographer when the satiric targets lost their immediacy He augmented the satiric writings by creating the visual persona of a satirist in various media woodcut author portraits in books engravings and particularly portrait medals The complementary verbal visual relationship is the subject of this pairing Aretino s religious writings have not been taken seriously until quite recently

The two essays presented here trace Aretino's associations with Erasmians, spiritual heretics and apostates arguing that his own convictions were sincere suggesting that he became a Nicodemite during the gathering Counter Reformation repression of the 1540s. The concluding essays consider two examples of Aretino's continuing influence in different media: visual arts and literature on the brilliant eccentric artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo and on a great English comedy Ben Jonson's *Volpone*.

Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, 1922 **Classical Drama, Greek and Roman** Meyer Reinhold, 1959 An overview of classical drama that includes information about individual playwrights and their historical contexts **British Poetry and Drama 14th-17th Centuries** Mr. Rohit Manglik, 2024-09-24 Explores major literary works and authors of the period including Chaucer, Shakespeare and Marlowe. Analyzes themes, language and cultural context of early English literature **Catalog of Copyright Entries. Third Series** Library of Congress. Copyright Office, 1957 Includes Part 1 Number 1: 2 Books and Pamphlets Including Serials and Contributions to Periodicals January-December Miscellaneous Order Angus Vine, 2018-11-23 This book examines one of the most pervasive but also perplexing textual phenomena of the early modern world: the manuscript miscellany. Faced with multiple problems of definition, categorization and often conflicting terminology, modern scholars have tended to dismiss the miscellany as disorganized and chaotic. *Miscellaneous Order* radically challenges that view by uncovering the various forms of organization and order previously hidden in early modern manuscript books. Drawing on original literary and historical research and examining both the materiality of early modern manuscripts and their contents, this book sheds new light on the transcriptive and archival practices of early modern Britain as well as on the broader intellectual context of manuscript culture and its scholarly afterlives. Based on extensive archival research and interdisciplinary in both subject and matter, *Miscellaneous Order* focuses on the myriad kinds of manuscript compiled and produced in the early modern era. Showing that the miscellany was essential to the organization of knowledge across a range of genres and disciplines from poetry to science and from recipe books to accounts, it proposes a new model for understanding the proliferation of manuscript material in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. By restoring attention to miscellaneous order in this way, it shows that we have fundamentally misunderstood how early modern men and women read, wrote and thought. Rather than a textual form characterized by an absence of order, the miscellany, it argues, operated as an epistemically and aesthetically productive system throughout the early modern period **Paperbound Book Guide for Colleges**, 1968

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