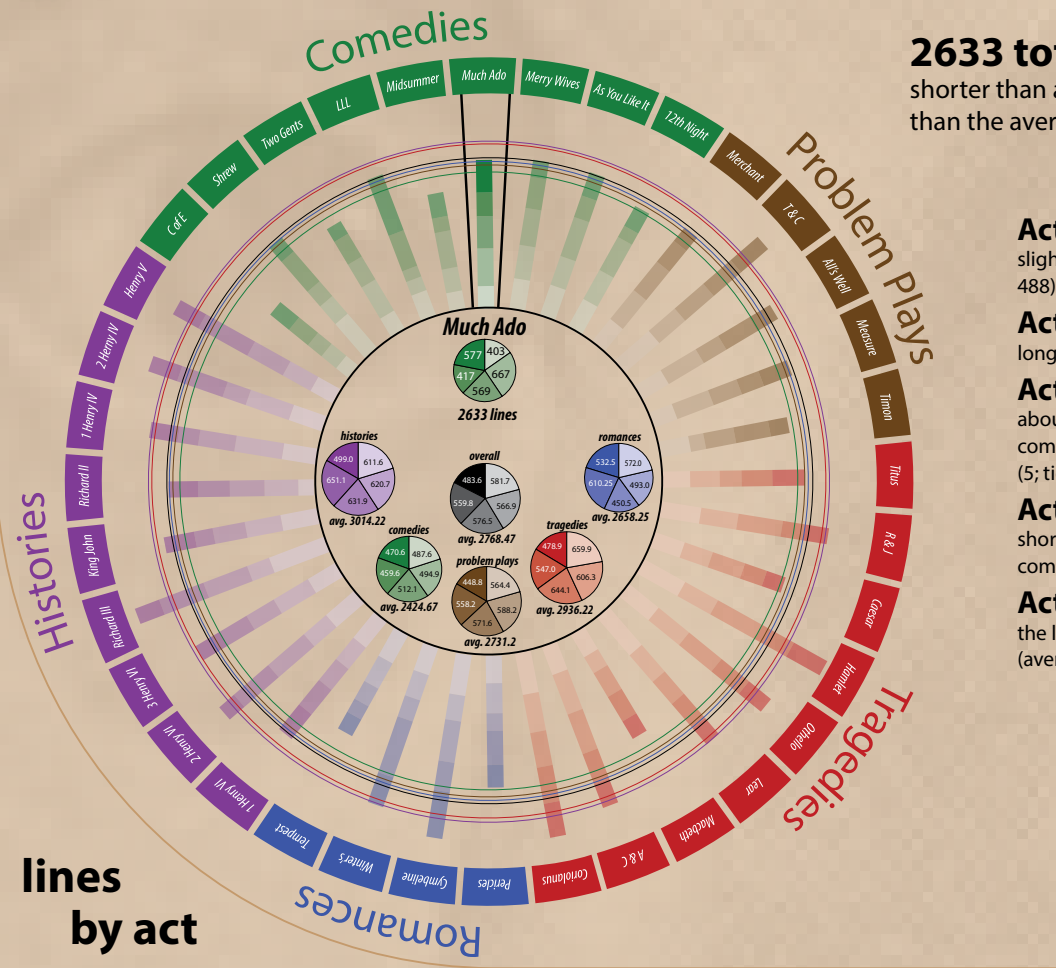


Shakespeare's

Much Ado About Nothing

BY THE NUMBERS



2633 total lines

shorter than average (average play: 2768), longer than the average comedy (2425)

Act One: 403 lines

slightly shorter than average (play: 582, comedy: 488)

Act Two: 667 lines

longer than average play (play: 567, comedy 495)

Act Three: 569 lines

about average (576), but longer than the average comedy (511); has the most scenes of any comedy (5; tied with Merry Wives)

Act Four: 417 lines

shorter than average (average play: 560, average comedy: 460)

Act Five: 577 lines

the longest of all comedies; longer than average (average play: 484, average comedy: 471)

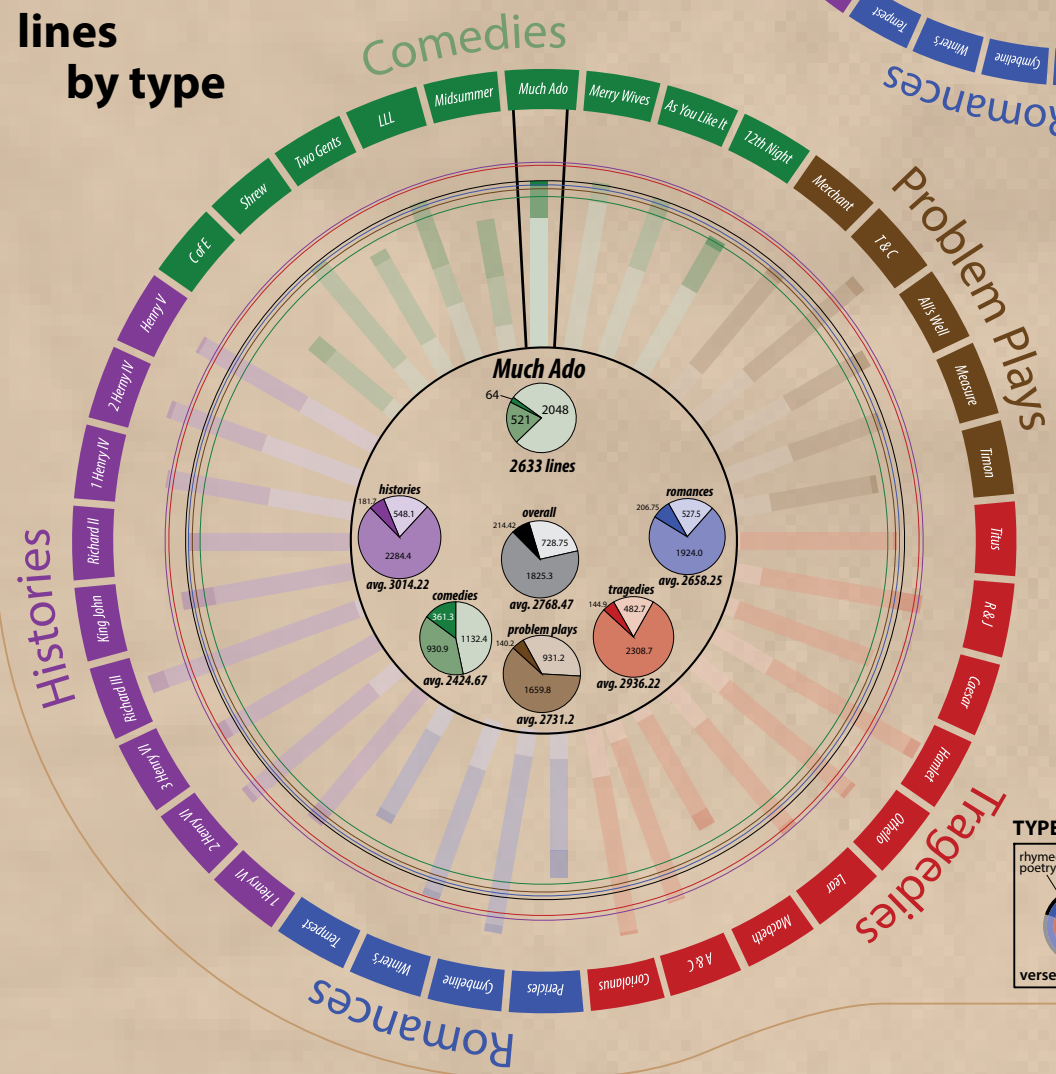
lines by act

17 scenes

less than average (21), about average for a comedy (16)

A post-war month-long stay at an estate in Messina. A “merry war” between a man and a woman whom everyone (save the couple themselves) knows belong together. A callow youth and an innocent girl. A prince and his bastard brother. And a ridiculous constable (don't call him an ass!). What could possibly go wrong?

lines by type



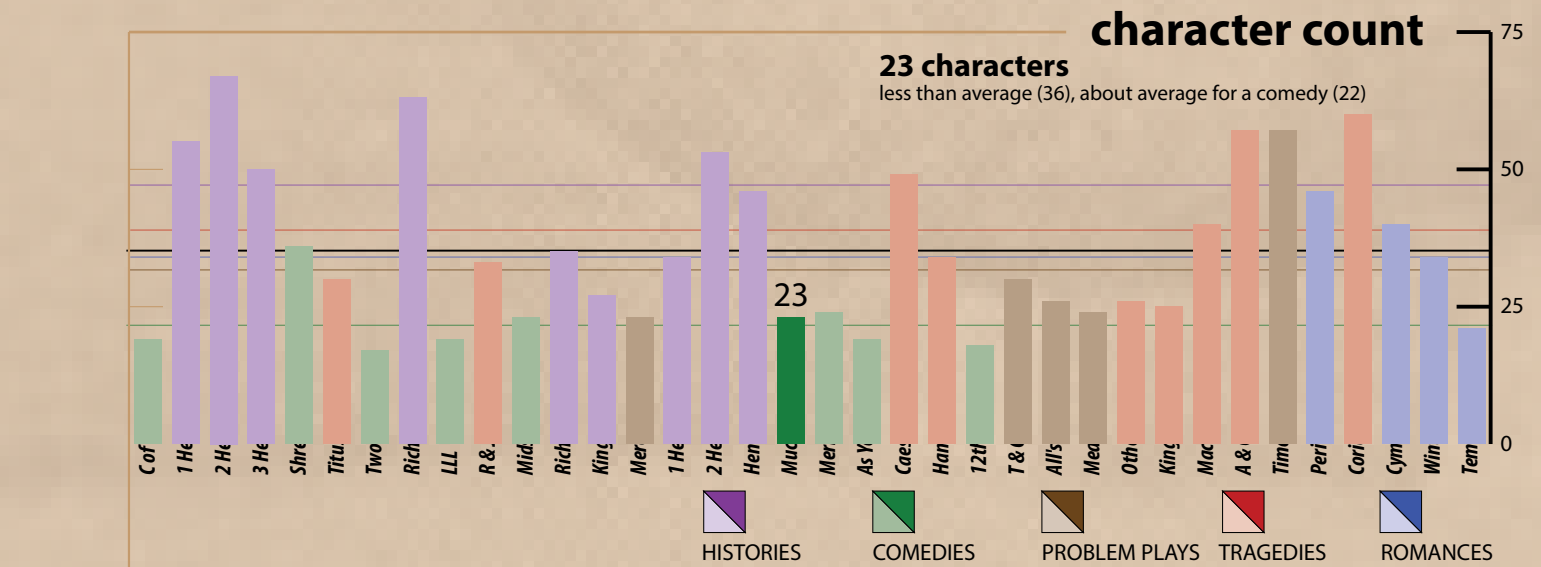
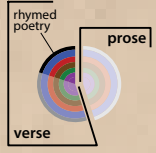
2048 lines of prose

77.78% of total lines; much more than average (play:26.32%; comedy: 46.71%); only Merry Wives has more at 88%

64 rhyming lines

2.43% of total lines; much less than average [play:8.35%; comedy: 15.5%]; the smallest ratio of all the comedies, though Merry Wives and Taming are close at 3.73% and 3.93%, respectively, while 4 tragedies and 3 histories are smaller

TYPES OF LINES



CREDITS:

Sources: work-specific: Holland, Peter, ed. 1999. *Much Ado About Nothing*. Shakespeare, William. New York: Penguin. by comparison: *assorted plays*, Shakespeare, William. New York: Penguin. design: Bill Walthall, FireMuse Publishing



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