Lesson 5
Elizabethan Theatre

1. (Part I)
Elizabeth I: A.D. 1558 - 1603

Secular theatre operated by professional actors and playwrights

Theatre was year-round

Focus on power struggle of royalty

Actor - Lord Chamberlain’s Men

Worked in Globe Theatre

Insight into Human Psyche

2. Theatre prospered due to Elizabeth and stability of economy

Complexity of human motivation

Human mind and action

Visions outreached abilities

4. Material from history, romances, other plays

Broke the Three Unities

3. William Shakespeare

Most performed playwright to date

37 plays, 154 sonnets, 2 epic poems

(Part II)
Royalty were touchable

(Part III)
Tragedies, comedies, and histories

Tragedies: Tragic flaw

Comedies: Follies and romances

5. Globe Theatre
Theatre that contained the universe

3-levels = hierarchy of stations

(Part IV)
Stage = heavens, world, hell
Minimal set = focus on actor

Language was celebrated

6. Language = Action

Times of day spoken

Entrances and exits announced

Spoken plans made, subplots were talked about

Locations and destinations referred to by dialogue

Descriptions of deaths

7. Actors were master speakers

Not a lot of believability in acting

Audience sat and stood on three sides

(Part V)
Groundlings: Poor people

Yard: Area where they stood

8. Women not actresses

Reflection of their exclusion

Part of man’s world, not their own

Men designated female behavior

Women shaped by this society

Elizabeth I only exception