



What educationalists and the press are saying about:

MANGA SHAKESPEARE®



“Young people wanted a comic culture of their own...that wasn't what their parents were reading. They wanted something that was different and special.”

– **Paul Gravett, leading comics historian** (August 2008)

“If I have my way comics will play their part in the literacy debate. My son has no interest in English at school, but has devoured three Manga Shakespeare graphic novels”

– **Ian Rankin, Author at Edinburgh International Book Festival** [August 2008]

“Perhaps this is the perfect way to reinvigorate Shakespeare for a new generation.”

– **The List magazine, Edinburgh** [August 2008]

“This interpretation of A Midsummer Night's Dream is a very satisfying one... The way that [the characters] are drawn is often very touching, giving the reader a sense of their youth, vulnerability and awkwardness. Their emotions, shown in very varied facial expressions, are also well realized throughout and there is a great sense of movement in the images and... a huge amount of additional pleasure for the manga reader... This is a lovely object, as well as a touching and effective interpretation, which has a very distinctive visual voice.”

– **Dr Mel Gibson, Children's Literature Specialist**
WriteAway.com – educational website [July 2008]

“Patrick Warren... chillingly captures the emotion and conflict within the characters, and draws out the dramatic and cinematic quality of [Richard III]... The book and its series should appeal to students and Manga fans. It certainly encouraged me, as someone who does not read Shakespeare for leisure at home, to do so. Manga Shakespeare is also an accessible introduction to the study of Shakespeare's original text.”

– **Simon Barrett, Teacher** [July 2008]

“SelfMadeHero – UK Young Publisher of the Year 2008”
– **British Council & London Book Fair** (May 2008)

“FOUR STARS”
– **Shakespeare's Globe Theatre Children's Book Recommendation Panel** (November 2007)

“Best Books for the Teen Age” and
“Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers”
– **Young Adults Library Services Association** (2008)

“NEO GOLD AWARD – Julius Caesar”
– **NEO Magazine** (August 2008)

“25 Essential Manga” status for the series
– **NEO Magazine** [June 2008]

“A revolutionary approach to English teaching... creative and inspiring.”

– **Head of English, Blackfen School for Girls, London** (June 2008)

“Huge congratulations ... you’ve done a brilliant job in a very short space of time... I now use a range of SelfMadeHero texts from Shakespeare to Kafka in my teaching at university, and there is a palpable sense of excitement in the classes as students encounter classics that speak to them in their own idiom. I hope you go from strength to strength!”

– **Ariel Kahn, English Lecturer, Roehampton University** (June 2008)

“There’s a very fine Manga Shakespeare appearing play by play and if Macbeth turns up in this style it will be perfect for 9s to 11s.”

– **Chris Brown, Reviews Editor, School Librarian magazine and author of the ‘Books into Boys’ report for the School Librarian Association** (June 2008)

“This series, with its impression of fast-paced action, could draw younger readers (Key Stage 2 and upwards) into the world of the plays and give them some taste of the language.”

– **National Association of Teachers of English ‘Classroom’ Magazine** (Spring 2008)

“the Manga Shakespeare series... is abridged, but this should not be seen as problematic, given the exceptional support the series offers readers in understanding the narratives and language of the plays. Varied angles, pacing and page layout create a great deal of interest and support and direct the reader.”

– **Dr Mel Gibson, National Teaching Fellow and visual literacy expert** (June 2008)

“Watch out! SelfMadeHero’s Manga Shakespeare books are seriously good. Students are reading them for pleasure!”

– **Anne Walker, School Librarian, Leeds** (May 2008)

“As soon as the kids hear the word manga, they become enthusiastic and Shakespeare becomes ‘fun’ again.”

– **L. O’Hanlon, English Teacher, Year 7, Liverpool** (April 2008)

“It’s great to see Shakespeare become cool again, by taking these timeless dramas and placing them in fresh, relevant contexts that will excite and challenge modern readers. Welcome to the 21st century, Will.”

– **Gavin Lees, Secondary English Network Leader, Livingstone** (February 2008)

“SelfMadeHero has been breaking ground in literature education, making Shakespeare more accessible in the

classroom and showing teachers how to use visual literacy to aid in their pupils’ understanding.”

– **British Council, Sunitha Janamohan** (February 2008)

“If you think you know Shakespeare, you must check this out and think again. If you want to know Shakespeare, you should check this out because it will give you a different way into the canon of English Literature. And if you need to know Shakespeare for the test on Monday, this seems like a much better way than CliffsNotes to get a unique understanding of the story.”

– **Mary Lee, a judge of The Cybills, The Children’s and Young Adult bloggers literary awards on Romeo & Juliet** (November 2007)

“These artists demonstrate how vividly manga techniques and pacing can convey motion and emotion... a Japanese export has become the future of comics.”

– **The Times** (October 2007)

“This ‘manga Shakespeare’ hybrid is unlikely – but makes absolute sense... [it] shares similarities with Shakespeare’s theatre, relying heavily on recurring image and highly expressive gestures.”

– **The Observer** (October 2007)

“Comic book Shakespeare is not dumbing down but will help breathe new life into his great classics”

– **Sunday Express** (September 2007)



“the narratives crackle with energy and tease new insights from the silences behind the words... an exciting new way of bringing Shakespeare vividly alive”

– **Globe Quarterly Magazine** (Autumn 2007)

“Let’s face it, reading the Bard’s stuff can be a tough slog for kids but put it in a comic book, and suddenly Will doesn’t seem so daunting... Manga Shakespeare seems like an excellent starting point or first-time Bard readers of any age.”

– **New York Post** (July 2007)

“The books very successfully combine the spirit of manga and Shakespeare. They are visually very stimulating and easy to pick up. They break down barriers while retaining the original words of Shakespeare.”

– **The Reading Agency, Ruth Harrison** (May 2007)

“visually appealing, intelligently adapted... A cartoon version of Shakespeare is in some ways truer to the original than reading the text alone; the visual element was always supposed to be part of the experience.”

– **Financial Times** (March 2007)

“This new series does in book form what film director Baz Luhrmann did on screen – make Shakespeare cool and accessible to a younger generation... [the] artists use the dynamic flow of manga to give Shakespeare’s plots an addictive page turning energy.”

– **Independent on Sunday** (March 2007)

“These books... have a very strong appeal. They have a number of different uses with students... from the widest possible range of backgrounds and abilities.”

– **Jenny Smith, Teacher, Greig City Academy, London**
(March 2007)

“Manga’s edgy cool is the perfect companion to Shakespeare’s grand themes. You get graphic visions of the greatest words ever written, so the plays open up to you: after that, the full text is much more accessible. Shakespeare’s words may be intimidating at first, but what those words mean remains true to this day – these sharply drawn, intelligent versions will show you why. Glorious.”

– **Etc magazine, British educational magazine**
(Autumn 2007)

Titles already published:

Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet
(March 2007)

The Tempest, Richard III
(September 2007)

A Midsummer Night’s Dream
(February 2008)

Julius Caesar, Macbeth
(June 2008)

Forthcoming titles:

As You Like It, Othello
(November 2008)

Much Ado About Nothing, King Lear, Henry VIII
(April 2009)

Merchant of Venice, Twelfth Night
(August 2009)

