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AP English IV – 2  
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Meaningful Title, Centered

The Influence of a Powerful Queen in Shakespeare's Comedies

Indent first line of each paragraph

Queen Elizabeth I of England is one of the most fascinating characters in British history. The Golden Age of her reign coincides with the English Renaissance and the careers of great English playwrights William Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe, and Ben Johnson. Shakespeare's use of the powerful woman in his comedies is reflective of his powerful Queen. In *Much Ado About Nothing* and *The Taming of the Shrew*, the presence of the headstrong woman and the ways with which she is dealt by the men around her finds is directly influenced by the life of Queen Elizabeth, the relationship she held with her court, and the political and social issues which encompassed her reign.

Subheadings Left Justified and Underlined

Shakespeare's Queen

William Shakespeare and Queen Elizabeth are so intertwined that their names are synonymous with each other, so much so that the Golden Age of English Renaissance is called both Elizabethan and Shakespearean. In order to understand Shakespeare and his dramas, one must understand the world in which he lived and the Queen who ruled him. Elizabeth I was much more than the first successful queen of England. Her greatest accomplishment – survival – was achieved before she was crowned Queen (Haigh 8).

When Ann Boleyn won the heart of Henry VIII, the course of England was forever changed. Catharine of Aragon and her daughter Mary became outcasts and the new Queen Ann and her unborn child represented a newfound hope for Henry and his desire for a male heir.

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