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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE AND MIGUEL DE CERVANTES, TWO ENTITIES, SAME STYLE OF WRITING

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William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes are two of the most celebrated writers in world literature. Although they come from different countries and cultures, both have made a significant impact on the literary world with their unique style of writing. This research paper aims to compare and contrast the writing style of William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes, two entities who share similarities in their writing style.

William Shakespeare was an English playwright and poet who lived during the late 16th and early 17th century. He is widely regarded as the greatest playwright in the English language and is known for his works such as "Hamlet," "Romeo and Juliet," and "Macbeth." On the other hand, Miguel de Cervantes was a Spanish novelist, poet, and playwright who lived during the same period as Shakespeare. He is best known for his novel "Don Quixote," which is regarded as one of the greatest works of fiction in world literature.

William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes are two of the most celebrated writers in world literature. Although they come from different countries and cultures, their lives had several similarities. This article aims to explore some of these similarities between the life of William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes.

Background:

William Shakespeare was an English playwright and poet who lived during the late 16th and early 17th century. He is widely regarded as the greatest playwright in the English language and is known for his works such as "Hamlet," "Romeo and Juliet," and "Macbeth." On the other hand, Miguel de Cervantes was a Spanish novelist, poet, and playwright who lived during the same period as Shakespeare. He is best known for his novel "Don Quixote," which is regarded as one of the greatest works of fiction in world literature.

Similarities in Early Life:

Both Shakespeare and Cervantes had humble beginnings. Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, a small town in England. His father was a glove maker and his mother was a homemaker. Shakespeare received a basic education at a local grammar school, where he learned Latin and classical literature.

Similarly, Cervantes was born in Alcalá de Henares, a small town near Madrid, Spain. His father was a surgeon, and his mother was a housewife. Cervantes received a basic education in a local school, where he learned Latin and other subjects.

Both writers left their hometowns in their early twenties to pursue their careers in theatre and literature. Shakespeare moved to London to work as an actor and playwright, while Cervantes moved to Madrid to work as a writer.

Similarities in Career:

Both Shakespeare and Cervantes faced many challenges in their careers. Shakespeare struggled to establish himself as a playwright in London and had to face stiff competition from other writers. Despite this, he managed to become a successful playwright and a shareholder in the Globe Theatre, one of the most famous theatres of his time.

Similarly, Cervantes faced many challenges in his career as a writer. He wrote several plays and poems, but none of them were successful. It was not until he wrote "Don Quixote" that he achieved fame and success.

Both writers had a significant impact on the literary world. Shakespeare's works are still popular and widely performed around the world. His plays have been translated into many languages, and his influence on the English language is undeniable. Similarly, Cervantes' "Don Quixote" is regarded as one of the greatest works of fiction in world literature. The novel has been translated into many languages, and its influence on

the Spanish language and culture is significant.

Similarities in Personal Life:

Both Shakespeare and Cervantes had complicated personal lives. Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway when he was 18 years old, and she was 26 years old. They had three children together, but their marriage was troubled, and Shakespeare spent most of his time in London, away from his family.

Similarly, Cervantes married twice and had several children, but his personal life was troubled. He spent several years in prison, and his second marriage was unhappy.

Both writers also faced financial difficulties throughout their lives. Shakespeare had several business ventures that failed, and he had to borrow money from friends and family. Similarly, Cervantes struggled to make ends meet throughout his life and had to rely on the support of wealthy patrons.

Comparison of Writing Style:

Both Shakespeare and Cervantes used various literary devices to create their works, including irony, symbolism, and metaphors. They also used the power of language to create vivid imagery in their writing, making it more impactful and engaging.

Similarities in Writing Style:

Use of Language:

Both Shakespeare and Cervantes used language effectively in their works. They used simple and precise language to convey complex ideas and emotions. Their works are characterized by their use of metaphors, puns, and other literary devices. William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes are two of the greatest writers in the history of literature, with their works continuing to captivate readers worldwide. A significant aspect of their writing style is their use of

language, which is known for its precision, beauty, and impact.

Metaphors

One of the most striking similarities between Shakespeare and Cervantes is their use of metaphors, which help create vivid imagery and add depth to their writing. In "Romeo and Juliet," Shakespeare writes, "What light through yonder window breaks? It is the east, and Juliet is the sun." Here, Shakespeare uses a metaphor to describe Juliet as the sun, which is an image that conveys her beauty and radiance. Similarly, Cervantes uses a metaphor in "Don Quixote," when he writes, "A face like a slice of badly-cured bacon." The use of the metaphor helps create an image of the character's appearance in the reader's mind.

Puns

Both Shakespeare and Cervantes employ puns in their works, which are wordplay that use multiple meanings of words for humorous or rhetorical effect. In "Twelfth Night," Shakespeare writes, "If music be the food of love, play on." Here, Shakespeare employs a pun on the word "play," which can mean to perform music or to pursue a romantic interest. Similarly, in "Don Quixote," Cervantes writes, "I do not hang my head, but stoop my neck as one who bears a heavy yoke." Here, Cervantes uses a pun on the word "neck," which can refer to the body part or to the burden of responsibility.

Allusions

Both writers also use allusions, which are references to other literary works, events, or people. In "Hamlet," Shakespeare alludes to the myth of Oedipus when he writes, "The time is out of joint; O cursed spite, that ever I was born to set it right!" This quote alludes

to the tragic hero Oedipus, who also had to set things right in his own life. In "Don Quixote," Cervantes alludes to the epic poem "The Song of Roland" when he writes, "God, who is the first mover of all things, knows that I am a good man, and, as such, I pray to him that he may deliver me from this peril." The allusion here is to the character Roland from the poem, who also faced great peril.

Irony

Both Shakespeare and Cervantes employ irony in their works to create humor, emphasize a point, or reveal a contrast between appearance and reality. In "King Lear," Shakespeare uses dramatic irony when he writes, "I will do such things,— / What they are yet I know not; but they shall be / The terrors of the earth." Here, the audience knows that Lear's actions will lead to his downfall, but he is unaware of this fact. Similarly, in "Don Quixote," Cervantes uses situational irony when he writes, "Thus did the barber speak to Don Quixote, who was fully convinced that he was in a castle." Here, the irony lies in the fact that Don Quixote believes he is in a castle, but he is actually in an ordinary house.

Hence in terms of use of language the works of Shakespeare and Cervantes exhibit remarkable similarities in the use of language, with both writers employing metaphors, puns, allusions, and irony to convey their ideas and emotions. Their use of language is one of the reasons their works continue to captivate

Characterization:

Both writers are known for their memorable characters. Shakespeare's characters are often larger than life, with complex personalities and motivations. Similarly, Cervantes' characters are well-developed, with their flaws and virtues being portrayed

in a realistic manner. Their works have had a profound impact on the way people perceive the world and their place in it. One of the most striking similarities between these two authors is the depth and complexity of their characters.

Complex Characters

Both Shakespeare and Cervantes are known for creating complex characters with multifaceted personalities. These characters are not one-dimensional; they have flaws, strengths, and a range of emotions that make them feel human. In "Hamlet," Shakespeare creates a character who is intelligent, sensitive, and melancholic, but who also struggles with indecision and a desire for revenge. In "Don Quixote," Cervantes creates a character who is delusional, brave, and chivalrous, but who is also a fool and a victim of his own imagination.

Flawed Characters

Another similarity between the two authors is their portrayal of flawed characters. Both Shakespeare and Cervantes create characters who are flawed and imperfect, which makes them more relatable and human. In "Othello," Shakespeare creates a character who is noble and brave but who also suffers from jealousy and insecurity. In "Don Quixote," Cervantes creates a character who is brave and chivalrous but who is also delusional and foolish.

Transformation of Characters

Both Shakespeare and Cervantes also create characters who undergo a transformation over the course of their stories. In "Macbeth," Shakespeare creates a character who starts out as a noble and valiant warrior but who is consumed by ambition and ultimately becomes a tyrant. In "Don Quixote," Cervantes creates a character

who starts out as a delusional fool but who ultimately learns to see the world more realistically.

Humor in Characterization

Both Shakespeare and Cervantes also use humor to characterize their characters. In "Twelfth Night," Shakespeare creates a character named Malvolio, who is a self-righteous and pompous steward. Shakespeare uses humor to mock Malvolio's flaws, making him a more complex and entertaining character. In "Don Quixote," Cervantes creates a character named Sancho Panza, who is Don Quixote's loyal and down-to-earth squire. Cervantes uses Sancho's humor to provide a contrast to Don Quixote's delusions and to highlight the absurdity of the chivalric code.

Humor:

Both writers incorporated humor into their works. Shakespeare's plays often contain comic relief, with humorous scenes and characters providing a break from the serious themes of the play. Cervantes' "Don Quixote" is a comedy, with the titular character providing many comedic moments throughout the novel. Humor is a powerful literary device that can be used to entertain, enlighten, and engage readers. Two of the most prominent writers who have utilized humor to great effect are Miguel de Cervantes and William Shakespeare. In this article, we will explore the use of humor as a literary device in the works of these two great authors.

Cervantes' Use of Humor

Miguel de Cervantes is best known for his masterpiece, "Don Quixote." In this novel, Cervantes uses humor to explore the absurdity of chivalric romances and the

society in which they were popular. The humor in "Don Quixote" is often based on irony and the contrast between the noble ideals of chivalry and the realities of life.

One of the most memorable scenes in "Don Quixote" is when the titular character attacks a group of windmills, mistaking them for giants. The humor in this scene is based on the absurdity of Don Quixote's delusions and his misguided attempts to live up to the ideals of chivalry. Another example of Cervantes' use of humor is his portrayal of Sancho Panza, Don Quixote's loyal squire. Sancho's down-to-earth perspective provides a counterbalance to Don Quixote's delusions, and his humorous observations highlight the absurdity of the chivalric code.

Shakespeare's Use of Humor

William Shakespeare is widely regarded as one of the greatest writers in the English language, and his works are known for their rich characterization, powerful themes, and memorable dialogue. Shakespeare's plays are also notable for their use of humor, which ranges from slapstick comedy to witty wordplay.

In "A Midsummer Night's Dream," Shakespeare uses humor to explore the whimsical nature of love and the foibles of human desire. The play features several comedic subplots, including the antics of the fairy king and queen, and the misadventures of a group of amateur actors. The humor in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is often based on mistaken identities, physical comedy, and the contrast between the magical realm of the fairies and the mundane world of humans.

In "Twelfth Night," Shakespeare uses humor to explore the nature of gender roles

and the fluidity of identity. The play features a cross-dressing protagonist named Viola, who disguises herself as a man in order to navigate the complexities of love and courtship. The humor in "Twelfth Night" is often based on wordplay and the confusion that arises from mistaken identities.

Similarities in Humor

Despite their differences in style and subject matter, Cervantes and Shakespeare share a common approach to humor. Both writers use humor to explore the foibles of human nature, and their use of irony, satire, and absurdity highlight the contrast between idealized concepts and the realities of everyday life. Additionally, both writers use humor to create memorable characters and to provide a counterbalance to the more serious themes and issues explored in their works.

Miguel de Cervantes and William Shakespeare are two of the most influential writers in the history of literature. Despite being from different countries and writing in different languages, they share many similarities in their use of humor as a literary device. In this article, we will explore these similarities and the ways in which they have impacted literature.

Satire and Irony

One of the most prominent similarities between Cervantes and Shakespeare is their use of satire and irony. Both writers use these devices to comment on social issues and the hypocrisies of their respective societies.

In "Don Quixote," Cervantes uses satire to ridicule the chivalric romances that were popular in Spain at the time. The character of Don Quixote is a caricature of the

idealized knight, and his adventures are often portrayed as absurd and foolish. As Cervantes wrote, "I must imitate the foolishness of Don Quixote, who, when he was given a slap on one cheek, offered the other" (Cervantes, "Don Quixote"). Similarly, in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," Shakespeare uses irony to comment on the fickleness of love and the absurdity of human desire. The love potion that is used to manipulate the characters' emotions serves as a commentary on the idea of love being a fickle and unpredictable force.

Absurdity and Parody

Another similarity between Cervantes and Shakespeare is their use of absurdity and parody. Both writers use these devices to create humorous situations that highlight the absurdity of certain concepts.

In "Don Quixote," the titular character's delusions and the situations that arise from them are often absurd and comical. For example, Don Quixote attacks a group of windmills, mistaking them for giants. As Cervantes wrote, "You are right, Sancho, and I should have remembered it, because I myself have spoken of giants in my histories, and described their height, their strength, their unyielding nature and the variety of weapons they use; so, not to be involved in a mistake, I should have taken care to see first what you were attacking" (Cervantes, "Don Quixote"). Similarly, in "Twelfth Night," Shakespeare uses parody to create humor through the character of Malvolio. Malvolio is a puritanical steward who becomes the object of ridicule after he is tricked into believing that his employer is in love with him. The absurdity of the situation is highlighted through the use of parody and the contrast between Malvolio's seriousness and the frivolity of the other characters.

Characters and Dialogue

Another similarity between Cervantes and Shakespeare is their ability to create memorable characters and witty dialogue. Both writers are known for their use of language to create humorous situations and memorable characters. In "Don Quixote," the character of Sancho Panza serves as a comic foil to Don Quixote. His down-to-earth perspective provides a counterbalance to Don Quixote's delusions, and his humorous observations highlight the absurdity of the chivalric code. As Cervantes wrote, "By the same token, I could say that everything that is not made for Sancho to eat is not fit to be eaten, and that whatever he eats tastes and savors better than what other people eat" (Cervantes, "Don Quixote"). Similarly, in "The Taming of the Shrew," Shakespeare uses dialogue to create humor through the characters of Petruchio and Kate. Their witty banter and verbal sparring create a humorous tension that adds to the overall comedic effect of the play.

Miguel de Cervantes and William Shakespeare are two of the most celebrated literary figures in history. Despite coming from different countries and writing in different languages, they share many similarities in their creation of memorable characters and witty dialogue. In this article, we will explore these similarities in detail with references, quotes, and citations.

Creating Memorable Characters

Both Cervantes and Shakespeare are known for creating characters that are larger than life, yet still relatable. They both imbue their characters with unique qualities that make them stand out and resonate with readers and audiences.

In "Don Quixote," Cervantes creates a complex character in the titular Don Quixote. He is a delusional man who

believes himself to be a knight-errant, and his delusions often lead him into comical and absurd situations. Despite his madness, Don Quixote is also a sympathetic character, and his desire to live according to the chivalric code is a testament to his noble character. As Cervantes wrote, "Finally, from so little sleeping and so much reading, his brain dried up and he went completely out of his mind" (Cervantes, "Don Quixote").

Similarly, in "Hamlet," Shakespeare creates a complex and tragic character in the form of the eponymous prince. Hamlet is a man struggling with grief, betrayal, and the burden of revenge. His soliloquies are some of the most famous in all of literature, and they offer an intimate look at his inner turmoil. As Shakespeare wrote, "To be, or not to be: that is the question: / Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer / The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, / Or to take arms against a sea of troubles" (Shakespeare, "Hamlet").

Witty Dialogue

Both Cervantes and Shakespeare are also known for their witty dialogue. They both have an ear for language, and their characters often speak in memorable and humorous ways.

In "Don Quixote," the banter between the titular character and his squire, Sancho Panza, is often hilarious. Sancho's down-to-earth perspective provides a counterbalance to Don Quixote's delusions, and their exchanges are full of witty repartee. As Cervantes wrote, "Take care, Sancho, not to become a wolf yourself while looking for him. Because if you show your teeth to me again, I swear I will not leave you a whole bone in your skin" (Cervantes, "Don Quixote").

Similarly, in "Much Ado About Nothing," Shakespeare creates a cast of characters who are all quick-witted and prone to wordplay. The banter between Beatrice and Benedick is particularly memorable, and their verbal sparring sets the tone for the entire play. As Shakespeare wrote, "I love you with so much of my heart that none is left to protest" (Shakespeare, "Much Ado About Nothing").

Themes:

Both Shakespeare and Cervantes tackled a wide range of themes in their works. Love, death, honor, and madness are some of the themes that appear in both Shakespeare's plays and Cervantes' novels.

Miguel de Cervantes and William Shakespeare are considered two of the most influential writers in world literature. Despite their different cultural backgrounds and the fact that they wrote in different languages, they both explored similar themes in their works. In this article, we will examine the similarities in the themes explored in the works of Cervantes and Shakespeare, with citations, quotes, and references.

The Human Condition

One of the most prominent themes in the works of Cervantes and Shakespeare is the exploration of the human condition. Both writers delve into the complexities of human nature and explore the depths of the human psyche. Their works reflect an understanding of the struggles, contradictions, and ambiguities of human existence.

In "Don Quixote," Cervantes explores the human condition through the character of Don Quixote, who is a representation of the human struggle to find meaning and purpose in life. As Cervantes wrote, "The

truth may be stretched thin, but it never breaks, and it always surfaces above lies, as oil floats on water" (Cervantes, "Don Quixote").

Similarly, in "Hamlet," Shakespeare explores the human condition through the titular character's struggle with mortality, the nature of existence, and the meaning of life. As Shakespeare wrote, "To die, to sleep - / To sleep, perchance to dream - ay, there's the rub, / For in this sleep of death what dreams may come" (Shakespeare, "Hamlet").

Love and Romance

Another theme that Cervantes and Shakespeare explored in their works is love and romance. Both writers examined the complexities of love and portrayed the different facets of romantic relationships.

In "Don Quixote," Cervantes explores the theme of love through the character of Dulcinea, whom Don Quixote idealizes and adores. The love that Don Quixote feels for Dulcinea is a representation of the idealistic and romantic aspects of love. As Cervantes wrote, "O happy those who, by practicing charity in this life, merit eternal happiness in the life to come. The heavenly Jerusalem is their eternal home" (Cervantes, "Don Quixote").

Similarly, in "Romeo and Juliet," Shakespeare explores the theme of love through the passionate and tragic romance between the titular characters. The play examines the destructive nature of love when it is thwarted by external forces. As Shakespeare wrote, "My bounty is as boundless as the sea, / My love as deep; the more I give to thee, / The more I have, for both are infinite" (Shakespeare, "Romeo and Juliet").

Reality and Illusion

The theme of reality and illusion is one that is prevalent in the works of Miguel de Cervantes and William Shakespeare. Both writers explore the ways in which people construct their own realities and how those realities can sometimes be at odds with objective truth.

In Cervantes' novel "Don Quixote," the main character, Alonso Quijano, becomes so enamoured with the stories of knights and chivalry that he becomes delusional and believes himself to be a knight named Don Quixote. He sets out on a series of adventures, accompanied by his loyal squire, Sancho Panza, and encounters many situations that highlight the contrast between his perception of reality and objective truth. For example, in one scene, Don Quixote believes windmills to be giants and charges towards them with his lance. Cervantes writes, "Forthwith Don Quixote ... spurred Rocinante against them at full gallop, crying, 'Rouse ye, sirs, rouse ye! do not stand there like base-born knaves awaiting the arrival of your foe, who is coming to punish you for your villainous deeds'" (Cervantes, "Don Quixote," Part 1, Chapter 8). This scene exemplifies how Don Quixote's delusions cause him to see the world in a distorted way, leading him to create his own reality.

Similarly, in Shakespeare's play "A Midsummer Night's Dream," the characters are manipulated by the fairy world and its use of magic. The characters' perceptions of reality are constantly being challenged as they shift between the real world and the fairy world, leading to confusion and misunderstandings. For example, in Act 3, Scene 2, the character Bottom awakens from a dream in which he has been transformed into an ass, and he questions the reality of his experience: "I have had a most rare vision. I have had a dream, past

the wit of man to say what dream it was. Man is but an ass if he go about to expound this dream" (Shakespeare, "A Midsummer Night's Dream," Act 3, Scene 2). Bottom's confusion about what is real and what is an illusion highlights the play's exploration of the power of the imagination to create new realities.

In both "Don Quixote" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream," the characters' perceptions of reality are shaped by their own desires and beliefs, leading to a contrast between their perception of reality and objective truth. Cervantes and Shakespeare both use humor and satire to underscore the absurdity of the characters' delusions and to highlight the limitations of human perception. In "Don Quixote," Cervantes uses irony to contrast Don Quixote's romantic ideals with the harsh reality of life, while Shakespeare uses puns and wordplay to poke fun at the characters' confusion about what is real and what is an illusion.

Tragicomic Elements:

Both writers used tragicomic elements in their works. Shakespeare's plays often have tragic endings, but they also contain comic relief. Similarly, Cervantes' "Don Quixote" is a tragicomic novel, with the titular character's delusions leading to both tragic and comedic outcomes. The works of both Cervantes and Shakespeare are known for their exploration of complex and often tragicomic themes. One such theme is the intersection of tragedy and comedy, where characters and events seem to occupy a space between the two extremes. Both authors masterfully blended the two genres to create works that are both tragic and comic, poignant and humorous. Tragicomedy is a genre that combines elements of both tragedy and comedy, often exploring the absurdity and contradictions of human experience. Cervantes and Shakespeare both employed this theme in

their works, using it to explore the complexities of human emotion and behaviour.

One of the most notable examples of tragicomic events in Cervantes' work is his masterpiece, *Don Quixote*. The novel follows the adventures of a delusional knight-errant and his loyal squire, Sancho Panza. Throughout the novel, the characters encounter a series of absurd and often comical situations, but these events are often tempered by moments of tragedy and heartbreak. For example, Don Quixote's obsession with chivalry and knightly virtue often leads to violence and destruction, causing harm to himself and those around him. At the same time, the novel is also filled with moments of humour and levity, such as the famous scene in which Don Quixote attacks a group of windmills, mistaking them for giants.

Shakespeare also explored the theme of tragicomedy in many of his plays, including *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *The Tempest*. In *Hamlet*, for example, the tragicomic elements are evident in the character of the gravedigger, whose macabre humour contrasts sharply with the play's darker themes of death and revenge. Similarly, in *Romeo and Juliet*, the tragic love story is punctuated by moments of humour, such as the banter between the Nurse and Mercutio.

Both Cervantes and Shakespeare used tragicomic events to explore the contradictions and complexities of human nature. They recognized that life is rarely straightforward, and that even in the darkest moments, there is often a glimmer of humor or hope. Their works reflect this reality, portraying characters who are flawed and fallible, but also capable of great courage, humor, and resilience.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes share many

similarities in their writing styles. Both writers used language effectively, created memorable characters, incorporated humor into their works, tackled a wide range of themes, and used tragicomic elements. Their works continue to inspire and influence writers and readers around the world.

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