

New England Great Books Council

2024 Mini-Colby-Week on Zoom

July 29—August 2, 2024

Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing is both a light and serious comedy about two romantic couples. The romance between one couple is nearly ruined by false accusations of a villain while the second courtship proceeds with much wit and banter. By means of a misunderstanding over a crucial word one couple confesses their love for each other while the other is tricked into believing a damning denouement. The title's play on words references the secrets and trickery that form the backbone of the play's comedy, intrigue, and action. Though a comedy, this popular play is a cautionary tale as well.

ISBN 9781501146305 (Folger Shakespeare Library)

Wuthering Heights (1847) by Emily Brontë concerns two families of the Yorkshire landed gentry and their turbulent relationships with a foster son. The novel was influenced by Romanticism and Gothic fiction. Brontë's depiction of impossible desires, betrayal, vengeance, violence, and transgression is a masterpiece of intense, unsettling power.

ISBN 9780141439556 (Penguin Classics)

The Age of Innocence (1920) by Edith Wharton is set in upper-class Gilded Age New York. A classic love triangle develops, and the three parties find themselves drawn into a poignant and bitter conflict between love and duty. Wharton beautifully captures the complexities of passion, independence, and fulfillment, and how painfully hard it can be for individuals to truly see one another and their place in the world.

ISBN 9780140189704 (Penguin Classics)