

Shakespeare's Reading

'And tell, how farre thou didst our Lily out-shine,
Or sporting Kid, or Marlowes mighty line.
And though thou hadst small Latine, and lesse Greeke,
From thence to honour thee, I would not seeke...'

Ben Jonson, 'To the memory of my beloued, The AVTHOR MR. VVILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: AND what he hath left vs', in the First Folio (1623)

National **literacy rates in England** according to a recent estimate



Influences



Holinshed



Plutarch



Giovanni Boccaccio



Ovid



Ludovico Ariosto



Matteo Bandello



Giovanni Battista Giraldis Cinthio



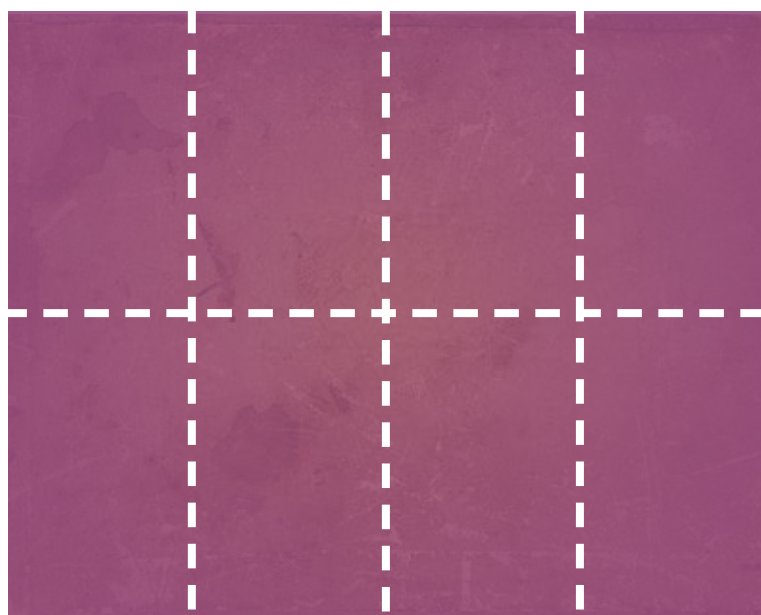
Chaucer

Early **modern book formats** were defined according to how many times the **individual sheets of paper were folded.**

OCTAVO

3 FOLDS

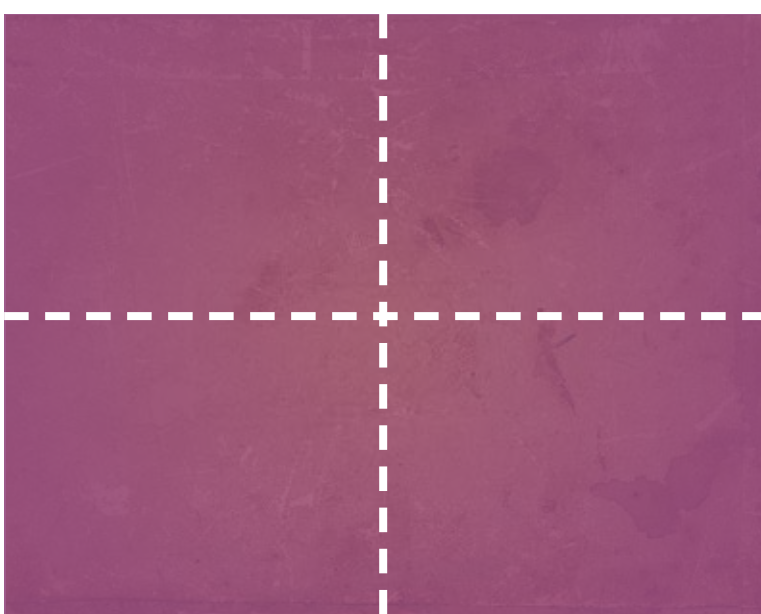
The Hurt of Sedicion (1549)



QUARTO

2 FOLDS

An Excellent conceited Tragedie of Romeo and Iuliet (1597)



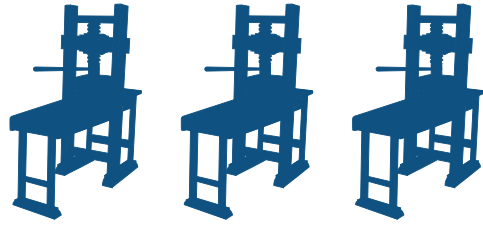
FOLIO

1 FOLD

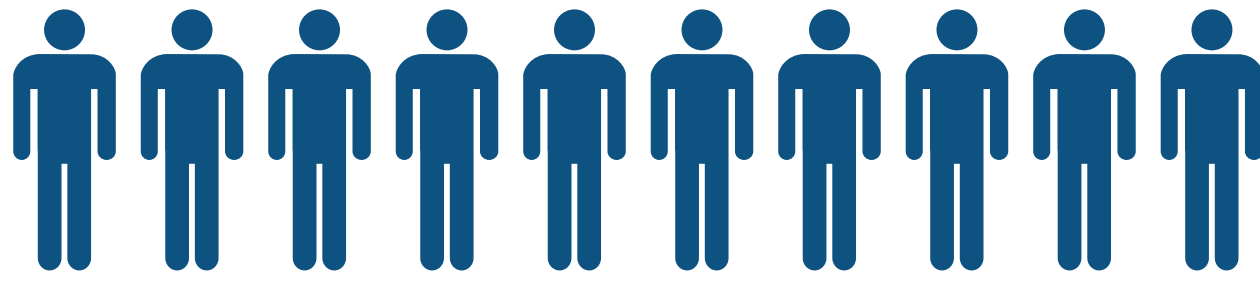
The Gutenberg Bible (c.1455)



An **average-sized printing house with three presses**



would require a workforce of **at least ten people**



and a supply of **25-30 reams of paper per day**



The **cost of paper** accounted for approximately **40% of the total cost** of production



Ink was usually made from a **compound of linseed oil** (for the varnish) **and burned resin** (for the colour)

'His gift of telling a story (provided some one else told it to him first)'

George Bernard Shaw