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[Review of] Shakespeare High

Robert A. Aken

University of Kentucky, robaken@uky.edu

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Shakespeare High, by Amy Ulen.

[Visited Jun'05] Ulen, who teaches Shakespeare and English literature and drama at the high school level, moved her Surfing with the Bard, or SWTB (reviewed here, CH, Sup'99, 36SUP–144), Web site under the present umbrella site in August 2003. Serving students and teachers, the site provides a chat room (called either Discussion Zone or Cafeteria, depending on the access point), Shakespeare news, and areas for students and faculty; the latter are the most useful parts of the site. Students can access resources on the plays (via SWTB) and Shakespeare 101, a set of guides that provide approaches to reading the plays. Teachers can find primary sources, lesson plans, and information on teaching through performance. The Library leads to SWTB, where links point to texts and resources for studying 14 of the plays and the sonnets. The problem with the site is neglect: bad links abound; the PAC section promises video, photos, multimedia and exhibits—without links; Office is still under construction. Whereas some of the material could prove useful to undergraduates new to Shakespeare and to secondary education majors, other sites have surpassed this one. Among them are Mr. William Shakespeare and the Internet (revisited, SUP'05)—Shakespeare High links to this site—and SparkNotes Shakespeare Study Guides http://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/, a dependable, structured Barnes & Noble resource written primarily by Harvard students. 

Summing Up: Not recommended.

--R. A. Aken, University of Kentucky

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