

# Contents

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Preface  | vi         |
| <b>1</b> Introduction: Shakespeare and comedy  | <b>1</b>   |
| <b>2</b> The Comedy of Errors (1592–4)         | <b>21</b>  |
| <b>3</b> A Midsummer's Night's Dream (1595–6)  | <b>35</b>  |
| <b>4</b> As You Like It (1599–1600)            | <b>53</b>  |
| <b>5</b> Twelfth Night or What You Will (1601) | <b>67</b>  |
| <b>6</b> The Taming of the Shrew (1592?)       | <b>83</b>  |
| <b>7</b> The Merchant of Venice (1596–8)       | <b>99</b>  |
| <b>8</b> Conclusion: Language and song         | <b>117</b> |
| 100 Ideas                                      | 131        |
| Notes  | 143        |
| Suggested further reading                      | 146        |
| Answers to 20 Questions                        | 148        |
| Acknowledgements                               | 150        |
| Index  | 151        |