***Troilus Detective Work***

**1 hr 15 min session**

**General Goal:** By presenting students with an oddity in the First Folio printing process, this lesson suggests relationships among printing and genre while destabilizing the text for students to own and appreciate.

**Specific Objectives:**

* Students confront the absence of *Troilus and Cressida* in the Catalogue, alongside its unnumbered printing between the Histories and Tragedies
* Students learn to use multiple digital research tools at once (*Shakespeare Documented*, Folio View, Hamnet, and *Six Degrees of Francis Bacon*)
* Students use historical and publishing facts to annotate and enrich close reading

**Pre-assignment:** get to know *Shakespeare Documented* **(**[**www.shakespearedocumented.org**](http://www.shakespearedocumented.org)), peruse prefatory matter of First Folio, read Shakespeare’s *Troilus and Cressida*

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**20 Minutes**

* Spend time dissecting genre decisions in First Folio Catalogue (<http://www.folger.edu/the-shakespeare-first-folio-folger-copy-no-68#page/Eighth+page+of+the+preliminaries/mode/2up>), point out that *Troilus and Cressida* does not appear in Catalogue
  + What genre of play is *Troilus and Cressida*? Where would students place it?
* Review pagination standards in First Folio (*Tempest* is a great example)

**30 Minutes**

* In pairs, students consider placement and unnumbered status of *Troilus* in Folio, and find entries for play in *Shakespeare Documented* (they will find 1st and 2nd editions, and Humphrey Dyson’s annotated copy commenting on its printing). Encourage students to follow all leads, offering Hamnet and *Six Degrees* as additional resources

**25 Minutes**

* Volunteers share their findings
* Lead discussion of how open-ended detective work leads to new discoveries and things to think about
* Lead conversation back to genre, connect students’ historical findings with any preceding conversations about plot, character, voice, etc.

*Required Resources*

Access to [www.shakespearedocumented.org](http://www.shakespearedocumented.org)

Computer/laptop access for students

Modern editions of *Troilus and Cressida* (multiple modern editions can enrich this lesson)