



Three Drunk Poets Find God: Rehearsal 1

Who the hell are these people?

Will Shakespeare



Time/Place: Elizabethan England (Active: 1592-1613)

Works: Plays of course, Sonnets, Narrative Poems

Quirks: Wrote about the paranormal and supernatural in plays; Iambic pentameter; Not real or didn't write all his plays?

Emily Dickinson

Time/Place: 19th Century Massachusetts

Works: Poems, Lots and lots of poems

Quirks: A recluse, Wrote in verse forms suggestive of hymns and ballads with lines of three or four stresses, “Haunting”, Dashes up the wazoo



Charlie Bukowski



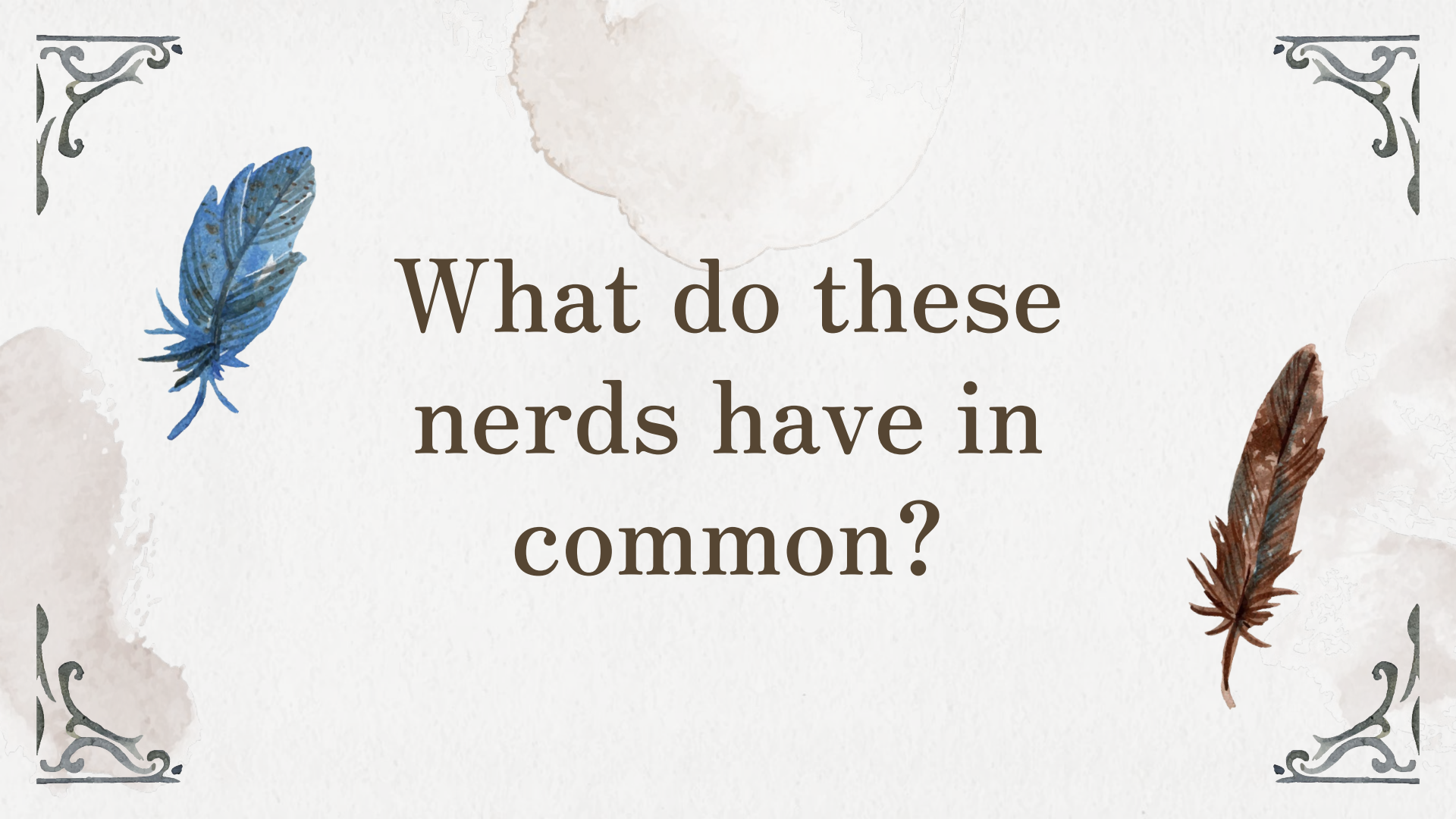
Time/Place: 1940-90 Los Angeles

Works: Poems, Novels

Quirks: Violent images, graphic language;
“Dirty realism”, Free verse

During 1940s he gave up writing and traveled
around the US as a drunk destitute

Interesting personal philosophies: Don't try; if
you have to try to care you don't actually care
and never will



What do these
nerds have in
common?



What they have in common...

1.


They wrote A LOT

Any guesses how much? (Dickinson, Bukowski, Shakespeare)







1,800



Dickinson Poems (Walt Whitman
published 160 and Robert Frost
published 250)









5,000



Bukowski poems (plus hundreds of
short stories and six novels)





118,406



Total lines in Shakespeare's collected works (38 plays, 154 sonnets, 2 narrative poems, and more)

(also there's 31,000 verses in the Bible for point of reference)



What they have in common...

1. They wrote A LOT
Why do you write like you're running out of time?
2. Similar Themes
introspection; death; supernatural; madness
3. White, English Origin
Not sure if this is significant to the play... but I noticed it
4. Signature style; Part of the “canon”
Shakespeare (Iambic pentameter); Dickinson (rhyming verse); Bukowski (Free Verse)





Other literature
references...

Chris(topher) Marlowe



He walked so Shakespeare could run.

Popularized blank verse (unrhymed iambic pentameter).

Died under mysterious circumstances. Went to lunch with friends and they stabbed him in the eye? In self defense?

Some think he faked his death and continued writing under Shakespeare's name

Probably helped write Henry VI parts I, II, and III

Sylvia Plath



Poet in the 1950s and 60s

Inspired by Dickinson (and others)

Wrote about death, suicide, mental illness,
identity

“Confessional”; wrote about taboo topics

“Diet Sylvia Plath” is an accurate description
of Dickinson in my opinion

Samuel Beckett



Playwright who wrote *Waiting for Godot*

Tree: Only set piece for the play (barren, minimalistic, empty)

Beckett's plays are absurd and existential and lack resolution

Vaudeville, Slapstick, Humor





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Thanks!

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