

SHAKESPEARE, RHETORIC AND COGNITION

Raphael Lyne addresses a crucial Shakespearean question: why do characters in the grip of emotional crises deliver such extraordinarily beautiful and ambitious speeches? How do they manage to be so inventive when they are perplexed? Their dense, complex, articulate speeches at intensely dramatic moments are often seen as psychological – they uncover, and investigate, inwardness, character, and motivation – and as rhetorical – they involve heightened language, deploying recognisable techniques. Focusing on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Othello*, *Cymbeline*, and the *Sonnets*, Lyne explores both the psychological and rhetorical elements of Shakespeare's language. In the light of cognitive linguistics and cognitive literary theory he shows how renaissance rhetoric could be considered a kind of cognitive science, an attempt to map out the patterns of thinking. His study reveals how Shakespeare's metaphors and similes work to think, interpret, and resolve, and how their struggles to do so result in extraordinary poetry.

RAPHAEL LYNE is a senior lecturer at the University of Cambridge, and a Fellow of Murray Edwards College. He is the author of *Ovid's Changing Worlds: English Metamorphoses 1567–1632* (2001) and *Shakespeare's Late Work* (2007), as well as the editor (with Subha Mukherji) of *Early Modern Tragicomedie* (2007).

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RAPHAEL LYNE



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For Thomas and Sophie

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This book is dedicated to my children, who entirely deserve it. Enjoyable though it has been writing this book, they have offered the best sort of distraction and joy all the way through. None of it could have happened without Clare, to whom only my first book is dedicated, but to whom all of them should be.