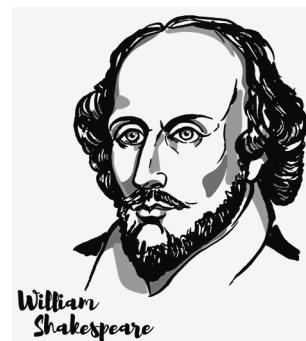


### The timeless beauty in Shakespeare's language

In his Sept. 8 Free for All letter, "The critic doth protest too much, he thinks," Ed Rader claimed that the "400-year-old language is the problem" for today's audiences in attending William Shakespeare's plays. Many of the plays have obscure allusions that need footnotes for comprehension. But there is no equal to the poetry that may also be found therein.

What could equal Romeo's reaction at his first sight of Juliet: "O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright! It seems she hangs upon the cheek of night / Like a rich jewel in an Ethiop's ear — Beauty too rich for use, for earth too dear!"

I would say the problem for today's audiences is insensitive editing of the text and presuming the plays have to be rewritten and re-imagined for people in a hurry.



**Carol Morgan, Washington**

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