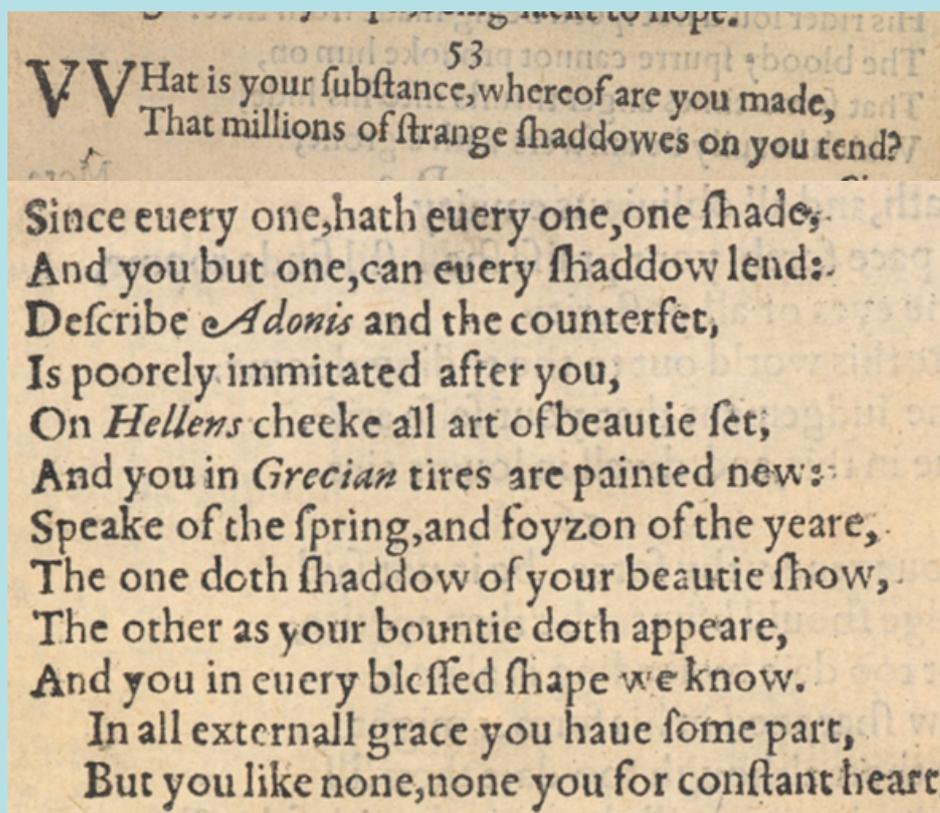


READING UNCERTAIN GENDERS

Read the text below and answer the following questions.

Feel free to use any physical or online resources that you find useful to help answer these questions.



Context:

Adonis, in classical mythology, is a young man renowned for his beauty. Shakespeare tells the story of how the goddess of love falls for him in *Venus and Adonis*.

Helen of Troy, also from classical mythology, the most beautiful woman in the world, whose abduction marks the beginning of the Trojan War.

- Do you recognise this text? Who wrote it?
- Do you recognise this edition? When is it from?
- What kind of text is this? What is its form?
- If you were going to edit this text for modern readers, would you change the punctuation? Why?
- Is this text addressed to anyone? What do we know about this person's gender? Why?