

William Shakespeare



Significant Person



Quick Facts



- During his lifetime, William Shakespeare wrote around 37 plays for the theatre and over 150 poems!
- He was born during England's Tudor period.
- William married a farmer's daughter called Anne Hathaway and they had three children together.
- William was part of a theatre company, called Lord Chamberlain's Men, who regularly performed at a place called 'The Theatre'. However, after a dispute with the landlord, they took the building apart, rebuilt it across the river and named it the Globe.
- Shakespeare's plays were immediately big hits! He wrote different kinds of plays, all of which could be divided into three categories:
 Tragedy - including Hamlet, Othello, King Lear and Romeo and Juliet
 Comedy - including Twelfth Night and The Taming of the Shrew
 History - including Henry IV, Henry V and Richard III
- Plays in Shakespeare's time were different to the ones we have today. There were no female actors (women's parts were played by men!), and audiences could be very rowdy. They would shout, boo and even throw food at the actors they didn't like!



Vocabulary



Playwright

 Someone who writes plays - stories that can be acted out on a stage for people to come and watch.

Legacy
 A situation that has developed as a result of past actions and decisions.

Sonnet

 A poem of fourteen lines that usually rhymes in set ways

Theatre

 A building where plays, movies, or concerts are presented.

Comedy

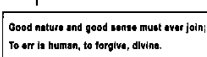
 A play, film, story, or television show which is funny.

Tragedy

 A play or story about serious events or ideas that usually ends with the death of the main character or characters.

Elizabethan

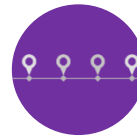
 Any person living in England during the reign of Elizabeth I, especially a poet or playwright.

Couplet

 Two successive lines of poetry that usually rhyme.

Globe Theatre

 Famous London theatre. After 1599, the plays of Shakespeare were performed here.

Timeline



1564: Born
 1582: Married Anne Hathaway
 1592: Arrived in London as an actor and playwright.
 1594: Shakespeare's first plays were performed by Lord Chamberlain's Men
 1599: The Globe Theatre was built in London
 1609: Shakespeare's sonnets were published
 1611: He retired back to Stratford-upon-Avon
 1616: Died

Impact

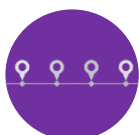


Shakespeare mostly wrote plays and sonnets, which are a kind of poem. Sonnets have 14 lines with 10 syllables in each line.

Shakespeare wrote plays called tragedies, histories and comedies. He acted in several of his plays in front of Queen Elizabeth I. He often included the themes of religion, love and the monarchy in his plays.

Shakespeare made up hundreds of words and well-known phrases in the English language such as barefaced, wild goose chase, fair play and bedazzled! Today, Shakespeare's work is studied in schools and universities around the world, and his stories are depicted on TV and in films. In 1997, the modern Globe Theatre was opened in London. A reconstruction of the original, it is just a few hundred metres from where the original one once stood. People can go to watch plays - just like in Shakespeare's day!

Surrounding Chronology



War of the Roses
1455-1487

Henry VIII becomes King
1509

Tudor era ends
1603

Tudor era begins
1485

Shakespeare born
1564

Stuart era
1603 to 1714