



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



William Shakespeare was a very famous playwright, actor and poet from the 1500's to the early 1600's. He was most likely recognised for the famous writings of Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet and Hamlet.

Born: 26th April 1564, Stratford-upon-Avon, England

Death: 23rd April 1616, Stratford-upon-Avon, England

Monarchs: Queen Elizabeth I and James I

SHAKESPEARE'S EARLY LIFE:

On the 26th of April, 1564, a lady named Mary Arden gave birth to William Shakespeare in Stratford-upon-Avon which is around 100 miles northwest from London (the capital of England). His father, John Shakespeare, was a hard-working leather merchant (a person that sells leather) and held the former position of an alderman (a superior member of the council that helps with English Law). Growing up, Shakespeare lived in a big, timber house with his fellow six siblings down Henley Street. When he turned eighteen, which is a very young age, he made the decision to marry a lady named Anne Hathaway who was eight years older than him making her twenty-six at the time.

PLAY WRITES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

After Shakespeare reached the suitable age for a job, he was hired as a writer for The Lord Chamberlain's Men and wrote some productions. These consisted of: *Midnight Summer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Hamlet*. Later on, Shakespeare was recognised by King James I and in 1604 - 1605, the King's men performed seven of his plays. In 1593, records show that Shakespeare's first poem, which was called 'Venus and Adonis', was written. A popular line from this is 'Love comforteth like sunshine after rain'.

FAMOUS SHAKESPEAREAN QUOTES

Here are some quotes penned by Shakespeare himself:

- "To be, or not to be: that is the question."
- "Cowards die many times before their deaths; The valiant never taste of death but once"
- "Fair is foul, and foul is fair."

FASCINATING FACTS

Some fascinating facts about Shakespeare are stated in the following...

- Shakespeare had three children during his lifetime: Judith Quiney, Susanna Hall and Hamnet Shakespeare.
- As well as being a writer, he was also an actor (he mostly acted in the theatre called The Globe, the picture on the right).
- As peculiar as this may seem, Shakespeare cast a curse on his own grave.
- Shakespeare lived for fifty-two years. That was an incredible age to live to in those days. This was due to the fact that there were no cures for diseases in those days.





FIND OUT MORE...

<https://youtu.be/O6CNII3ly9U>

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

WHO WERE THE TWO MONARCHS DURING SHAKESPEARE'S TIME?

WHAT WAS SHAKESPEARE'S FIRST POEM EVER PUBLISHED CALLED?

WHAT COMPANY DID SHAKESPEARE WORK FOR?

ON WHAT DAY WAS SHAKESPEARE BAPTISED?

AS WELL AS BEING A WRITER, SHAKESPEARE WAS ALSO AN _____.