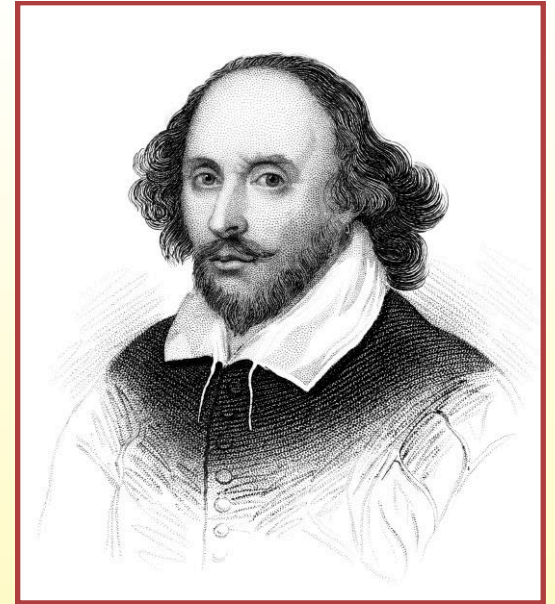


William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon around the 23rd of April 1564. The exact date is not recorded, but it is worked out from the day he was baptised (which was the 26th).



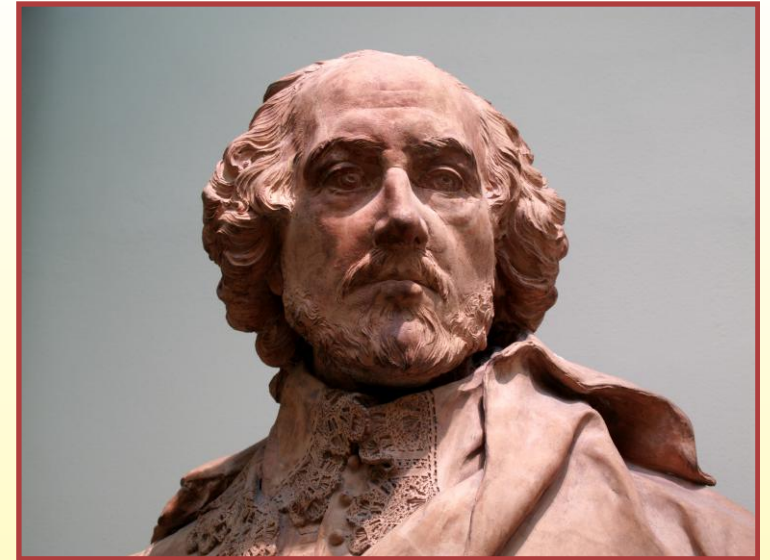
William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway at Temple Grafton on the 28th of November 1582. He was 18 and she was 26. He would have needed his father's permission to marry as he was under 21.



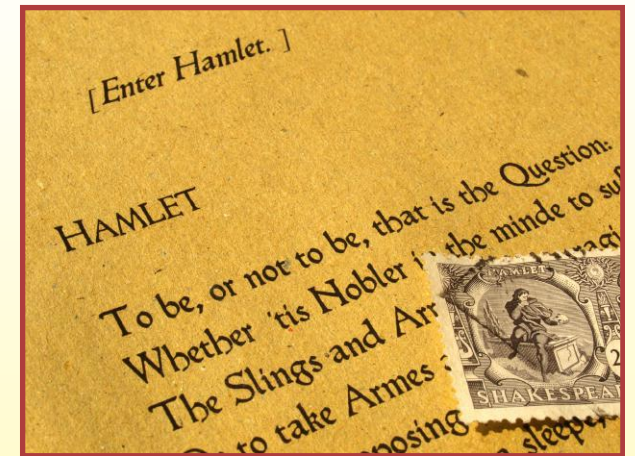
William Shakespeare

William and Anne had three children named Susanna, Hamnet and Judith. Hamnet and Judith were twins. Hamnet died at the age of 11.



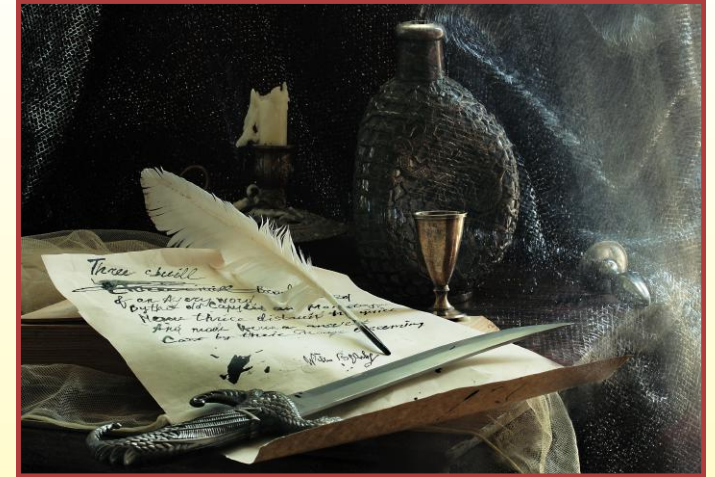
William Shakespeare

Shakespeare wrote three types of plays; comedies, histories and tragedies. A different colour flag was flown from the roof of the theatre to let people know what type of play was being performed.



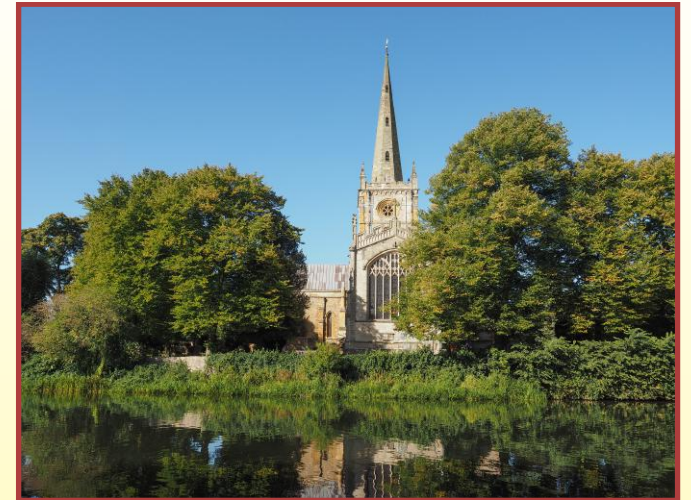
William Shakespeare

It is not known exactly how many plays Shakespeare wrote, but it is at least 37. He also wrote 154 sonnets and a few longer poems.



William Shakespeare

Shakespeare was buried at Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-upon-Avon on the 25th of April 1616. He probably died on the 23rd of April (which is believed to be his 52nd birthday).



William Shakespeare

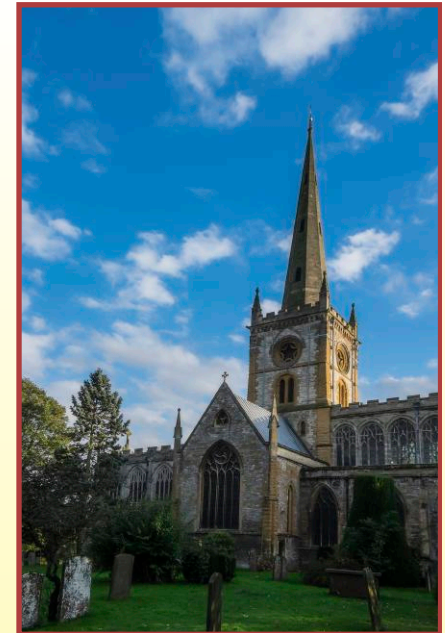
In his will, Shakespeare left his property to his eldest daughter, Susanna, and left his wife his second best bed. He also left £10 to the poor of Stratford.



William Shakespeare

Shakespeare's grave has a curse on it, which experts believe he wrote himself:

*"Good friend for Jesus' sake forbear,
To dig the dust enclosed here:
Blest be the man that spares these stones,
And curst be he that moves my bones."*



William Shakespeare

Shakespeare performed his plays in front of both Queen Elizabeth I and King James I. The king became the patron of Shakespeare's company in 1603 and they were renamed The King's Men.

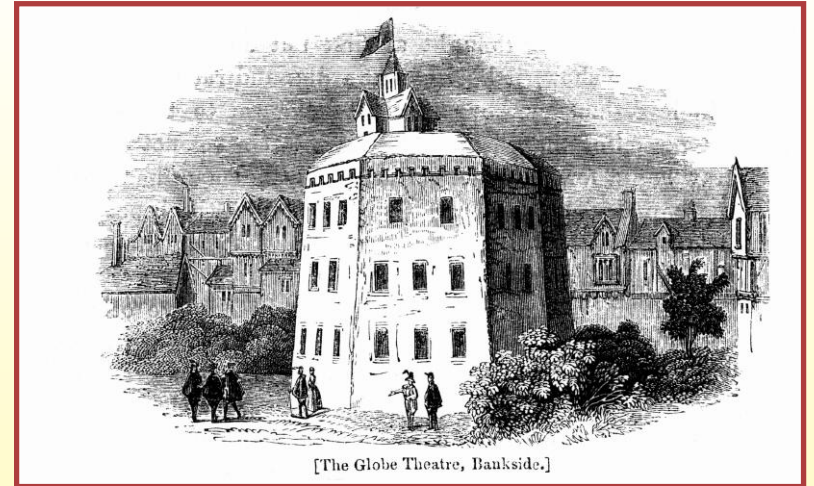


William Shakespeare

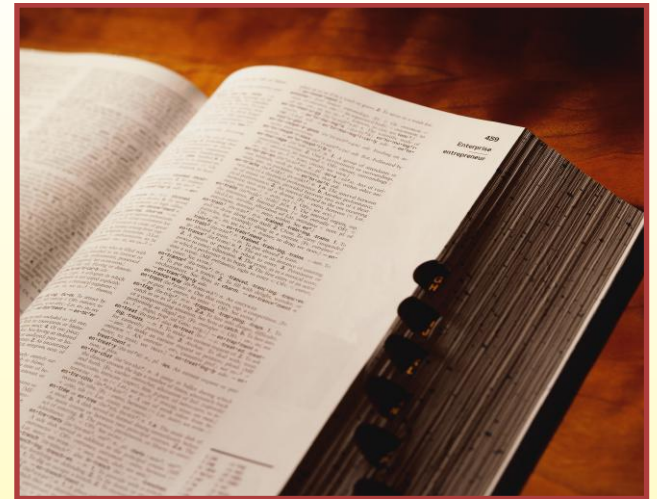
There was no standard spelling in Shakespeare's time, and each of the six surviving examples of his signature are spelt differently. None of them are the spelling we use today!



In Tudor times, theatres were closed for Lent and experts believe that this was when he went home from London to see his family in Stratford-upon-Avon.

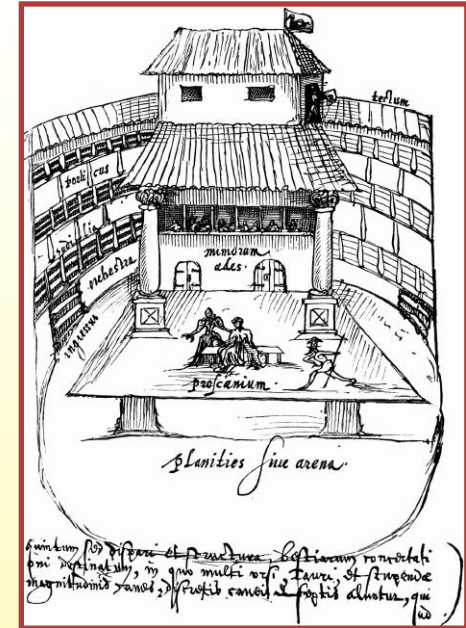


Shakespeare was the first to write down many words and expressions that we use today. These include *arch-villain*, *fashionable* and *dead as a doornail*.



William Shakespeare

As well as writing the plays, Shakespeare was an actor and he performed in them too. Women were not allowed to perform on the stage, so the female parts were played by boys!



William Shakespeare

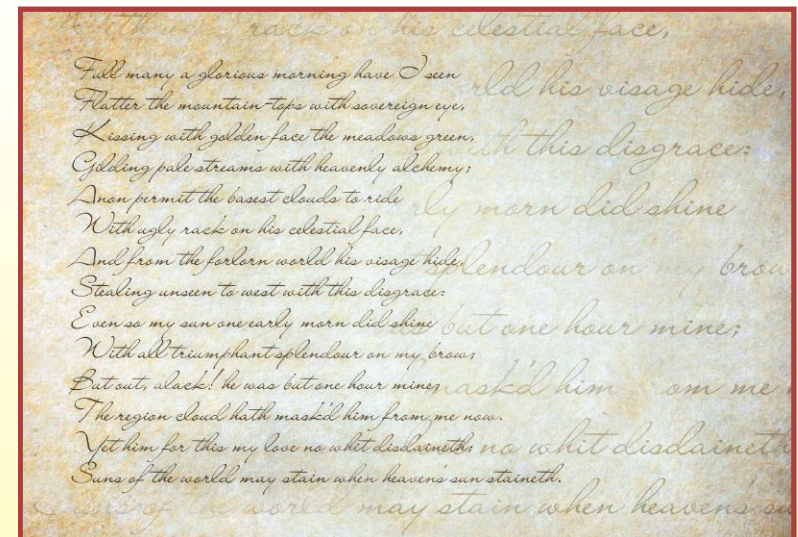
In 1557 Shakespeare's father John was elected Ale-Taster for Stratford-upon-Avon. He checked the quality of beer. This was a very important job; the water was not safe to drink so the staple drink was ale.



Shakespeare's Globe Theatre burned to the ground on the 29th of June 1613. The fire was caused by a cannon misfiring during a performance of Henry VIII.

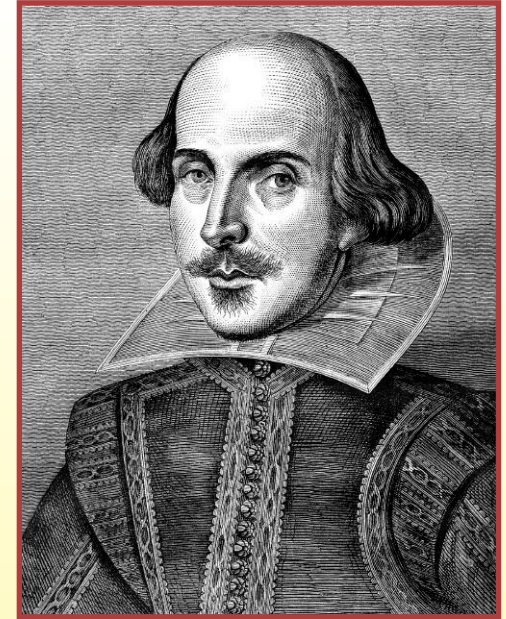


Shakespeare's sonnets were first published in 1609 by Thomas Thorpe. It appears that Thorpe stole the poems and that Shakespeare did not give his permission!



William Shakespeare

Some people do not believe that Shakespeare really wrote the plays as he had not had a university education. Lots of other people have been suggested. However none of them have been proved.



William Shakespeare

Shakespeare often collaborated with other people to write his plays. For example, he worked with playwright John Fletcher on *Two Noble Kinsmen*.



William Shakespeare

Shakespeare's father was a glovemaker and his mother came from a wealthy Catholic family. His father got into debt when William was about 13 and it is thought that he left school to help with the family business.



William Shakespeare

There is a marble monument to Shakespeare in Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey, which was erected in 1741.



William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare