

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



William Shakespeare was an English poet and playwright, regarded as the greatest writer in the English language. Shakespeare was born in 1564 and raised in Stratford-upon-Avon. His exact birthdate is not certain but he was baptised on 26th April 1564. William was the third child of John and Mary Shakespeare. At the age of 18, he married Anne Hathaway and had three children. Between 1585 and 1592, he began a successful career in London as an actor, writer, and owner of a company of actors called *The Lord Chamberlain's Men*. In 1599, they built their own theatre on the south bank of the Thames, which they called the Globe Theatre.

His early plays were mainly comedies and histories. Later he wrote short poems called **sonnets** and tragedies for example *Hamlet*, *King Lear* and *Macbeth*, considered some of the best works in the English language. In his last years he wrote tragicomedies, also known as romances, and co-operated with other playwrights.

He appears to have retired to Stratford around 1613, where he died three years later.

Famous plays: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *Midsummer night's dream*, *Henry V*, *Merchant of Venice*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *King Lear*, *Othello*, *Julius Caesar*, *Taming of a Shrew*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Shakespeare's house in Stratford-upon-Avon*



Shakespeare's house
in Stratford-upon-



Shakespeare's grave



The Globe Theatre

The hero of one of Shakespeare's most famous tragedies, *Hamlet*, has probably been discussed more than any other Shakespearean character, especially for his famous question "**To be or not to be; that is the question**". "**All that glisters is not gold**" from *The Merchant of Venice* and Juliet's words to Romeo "**What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.**" are some of his famous quotations.

(Original text)

JUL:

'Tis but thy name that is my enemy
Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.
What's Montague? it is nor hand, nor
foot,
Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part
Belonging to a man. O, be some other
name!
What's in a name? That which we call a
rose
By any other name would smell as sweet.

So Romeo would, were he not Romeo
call'd,

Retain that dear perfection which he owes
Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name;
And for that name, which is no part of
thee Take all myself.

JUL:

It's only your name that is my enemy;
You are yourself, not even a Montague.
What's "Montague?" It is not a hand, or a
foot,
Or an arm, or a face, or any other part

Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!
 What's in a name? that which we call a rose would smell as sweet if it had any other name.
 So Romeo, if he wasn't called "Romeo,"

would Retain that dear perfection which he has
 Without that title. Romeo, throw your name away;
 And for that name, which isn't part of you, Take all of me.



information about William Shakespeare adapted from:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Shakespeare
<http://absoluteshakespeare.com/>
<http://www.william-shakespeare.info/>
<http://www.online-literature.com/quiz.php?quizid=61> (for a quiz on Shakespeare)

Read the text and watch a video on Shakespeare at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GiqIKkaHLKI>. Then write full answers to the questions about Shakespeare:

- When was William Shakespeare born?
- What did his father make?
- What did he study?
- How many children did he have?
- When did the 1st theatre in London open?
- What was his 1st job in London?
- What are his short poems called?
- What did he do in the beginning of his career?
- What did he build in 1599?
- Did women play in the theatre?
- When did he die?
- What did he write?

Watch the video about the Globe theatre at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0SBg-KG4C4> and say if these sentences are **True** or **False**:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Globe theatre has rectangular shape. 2. It was built for Shakespeare's acting company. 3. Only rich people could afford a ticket. 4. The audience talked during the performance. 5. Eating and drinking was not allowed. 6. Globe theatre had a rich scenery. 7. Actors could get wet when it rained. 8. Only 12 actors took part in a play. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. There was music during the performance. 10. There were great actresses in the Elizabethan theatre. |
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