

## WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE. ENGLAND'S NATIONAL WRITER

Hello everyone, boys and girls. Do you know who I am? My name is William and I **became** the best-known writer in the English language. Perhaps my last name is more recognizable ... SHAKESPEARE! Can you spell it without looking?

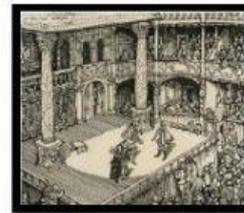


I **was born** in 1564 in England in a city called Stratford-upon-Avon. My father **sold** leathers and I **went** to the grammar school where my teachers **taught** me about poetry, history, Greek, and Latin.

I married a woman named Anne and we **had** two daughters and a son.

We **went** to London and I **began** to work as an actor in a theater company.

In this company there were no women because it **was** prohibited and young men played the female roles. While I worked as an actor, I **wrote** plays and very soon they **gave** me recognition.

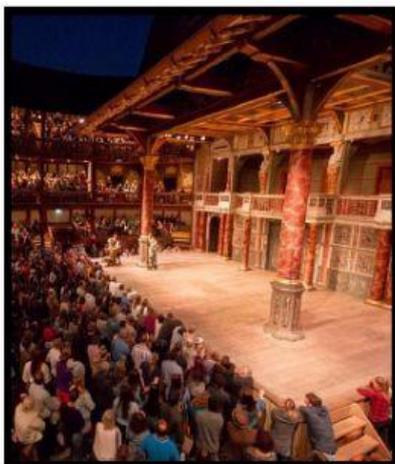


Possibly you know some of my plays. The most famous is "Romeo and Juliet".

This play **was** set in the city of Verona and it **told** the story of a boy and a girl who **fell** in love. They **chose** to live their story in secret because their families **were** enemies and they **paid** a high price for their love.

I also **wrote** poetry. My best-known poem is "Venus and Adonis". A book with 154 of my sonnets **was** published in 1605.

I **died** at my fifty-second birthday in my house in Stratford. An anecdote: You can take the letters from "William Shakespeare" and write "I am a weakish speller."



My favorite place in London is "The Globe". The theater that I **built** together with my colleagues and where I premiered some of my plays.

This theater **had** capacity for 3,000 spectators. The original theater burned in 1613 but it was **rebuilt** in 1614.

Today you can visit a reconstruction of the original and discover part of my history.

Thanks to my literature and this theater, I **won** a lot of money and I **bought** a great house in Stratford called "New Place".

**READING COMPREHENSION. Answer these questions:**

What was William's father's job?

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What did William learn at school?

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How many daughters did William have?

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Why were there no women in the theater company?

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In which city is "Romeo and Juliet" located?

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How many sonnets were in the book he published in 1605?

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How old was Shakespeare when he died?

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In what year did "The Globe" burn?

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What did Shakespeare buy with the money he earned?

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**LET'S INVESTIGATE.** Look for the information on the internet and answer questions.

What was William's wife's last name?

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What were the names of Shakespeare's sons?

\_\_\_\_\_

What was the name of the theater company where Shakespeare worked?

\_\_\_\_\_

Write the name of four plays written by Shakespeare.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Write the name of the plays where each of these characters appear:

Ariel \_\_\_\_\_

Mercutio \_\_\_\_\_

Cordelia \_\_\_\_\_

Shylock \_\_\_\_\_

Desdemona \_\_\_\_\_

Titania \_\_\_\_\_

Gertrude \_\_\_\_\_

Yago \_\_\_\_\_

Lady Macbeth \_\_\_\_\_

Falstaff \_\_\_\_\_