

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.

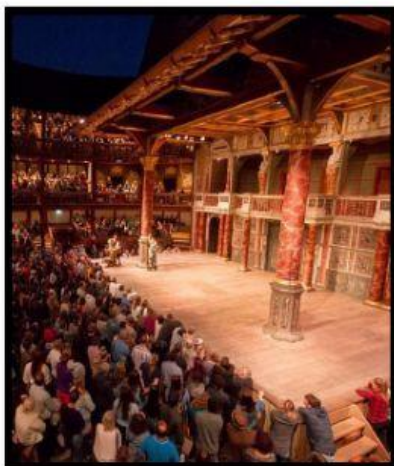


Possibly you know some of my plays. The most famous is "Romeo and Juliet".

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?

What did William learn at school?

How many daughters did William have?

Why were there no women in the theater company?

In which city is "Romeo and Juliet" located?

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

How old was Shakespeare when he died?

In what year did "The Globe" burn?

What did Shakespeare buy with the money he earned?

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

What was William's wife's last name?

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 _____