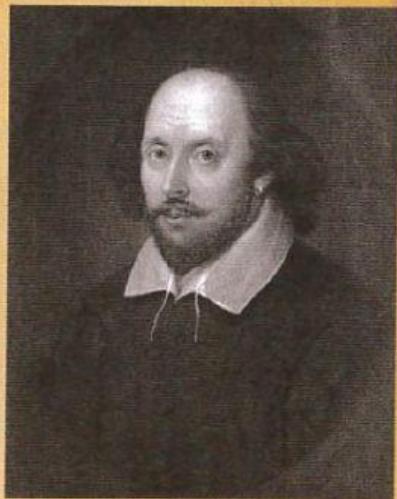


William Shakespeare

Read the text about William Shakespeare. Then do the exercises.

William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare is probably the most famous playwright in history. He was born on 23 April 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon in England. He was one of eight brothers and sisters. His father, John Shakespeare, was a successful businessman. William went to school in Stratford and learnt Latin and Greek, but he didn't go to university. At the age of fifteen he went straight to work in his father's business.



When he was eighteen, he met and fell in love with Anne Hathaway. She was eight years older than him. They got married in November 1582, and six months later their daughter Susanna was born. In 1585 they had twins, Hamnet and Judith. Little is known about the following seven years of his life. We only know that he moved to London, leaving Anne and the children in Stratford, and that by 1592 he was writing plays and working as an actor.

His plays were very popular and he made a lot of money. In 1597 he bought a big house in Stratford for his family, but he stayed in London for a further thirteen years. He continued to write and act and also bought a theatre. In 1611 he finally retired and moved back to Stratford to live in the house he had bought. In total, Shakespeare wrote 37 plays and 154 sonnets (fourteen-line poems). Some of his love poems are addressed to a married woman, and some of them are addressed to a young man. Nobody knows the identity of these two people. Shakespeare died in Stratford on his birthday, on 23 April 1616, and was buried in the church where he had been christened 52 years earlier.

1 Do the quiz about Shakespeare.

- 1 What was Shakespeare's first name?
a William b Harry c Hamlet
- 2 When was Shakespeare born?
a 1564 b 1664 c 1764
- 3 Where was Shakespeare born?
a Oxford b London c Stratford-upon-Avon
- 4 What was the name of Shakespeare's wife?
a Ann b Juliet c Judith
- 5 Shakespeare was a playwright and also worked as
a an actor b a teacher c an artist
- 6 Shakespeare wrote plays and also
a novels b sonnets c a dictionary

3 Complete the sentences about Shakespeare using one word.

- 1 Shakespeare was _____ in Stratford-upon-Avon in the sixteenth century.
- 2 He had _____ brothers and sisters.
- 3 He studied at _____ but not at university.
- 4 Susanna was Shakespeare's first _____.
- 5 Hamnet and Judith are the names of Shakespeare's _____.
- 6 In London, Shakespeare made a lot of _____.
- 7 Shakespeare wrote love poems for a man and woman but their _____ is still a secret.
- 8 Shakespeare returned to Stratford five years before he _____.

Read the text about Romeo and Juliet. Then put the numbers to the pictures in the correct order.

4 Read the text and check your answers to exercise 3.

ROMEO JULIET

Romeo and Juliet by Shakespeare is probably the most famous love story in the world. It is about a boy and a girl who meet and fall in love. Unfortunately, Romeo is a member of the Montague family and Juliet is from the Capulet family. The two families hate each other and often fight. If the parents knew about the love between Romeo and Juliet, they would be furious, so the two teenagers tell nobody. They get married at a secret ceremony and only the priest, Friar Lawrence, is there.



The fights between the two families continue and Romeo kills one of Juliet's cousins in a fight. He has to run away from Verona to another city.



Friar Lawrence wants Romeo and Juliet to be together. He gives Juliet a special potion that will make her sleep for two days. Her family will think she is dead – but in fact she will wake up, leave Verona and join Romeo.



Juliet drinks the potion and falls asleep. However, Romeo doesn't know about the Friar's plan. He thinks Juliet is dead. He is so upset that he takes poison and dies. Later, Juliet wakes up, sees that Romeo is dead, and kills herself with Romeo's knife.

3 Do you know the story of *Romeo and Juliet*? Number the pictures in the correct order.

