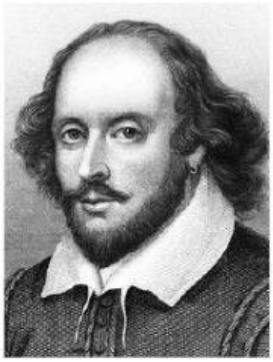
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (1564-1616)



William Shakespeare was an English poet and playwright during Elizabethan times (the time of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I). He was born in 1564 in Stratford-Upon-Avon, a town in the center of England. He is the greatest writer in the English language.

Shakespeare was earning his own living by the time he was 18. He was not yet 19 when he married Anne Hathaway. They had three children – Susanna, Judith, and Hamnet. Judith and Hamnet were twins.

Sometime before 1590 he left Stratford and went to London, the capital city of England. London's first theatre opened in 1576. Shakespeare worked in London as an actor and then started writing plays too. In 1592 bubonic plague, a terrible disease swept over London. It killed thousands of people and theatres were closed. During this time William started to write poems instead of plays. His short poems are called sonnets.

When the plague was over, the playhouses were opened again. Shakespeare helped build a new theatre called the Globe. It opened in 1599. It was round and had space for 3,000 people. At the Globe some people stood in front of the stage and others had seats. The audience shouted, clapped, booed and laughed while they were watching the plays. Musicians created special noises to make the plays more exciting and they had a cannon to make big bangs! No women acted in Shakespeare's time^ men and boys played all the parts.

Shakespeare wrote three kinds of plays: comedies with happy endings, like 'Much Ado About Nothing', or tragedies which had sad endings, like 'Romeo and Juliet'. His history plays are about kings and queens, like 'Henry V'. Shakespeare wrote 38 plays, all of which are still studied, performed or even made into films all over the

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world. He loved language and invented new words and expressions that we still use today.



Shakespeare became rich and famous. At the height of his career he returned back to Stratford. There he died in 1616. He was buried in Stratford-Upon_Avon. Thousands of people visit his birthplace and grave each year. His plays and poetry were very popular 400 years ago and they are still popular today. People all over the world love his work because he wrote wonderful stories about very interesting people.

Task 1. Choose True or False. Correct the false statements

1. Shakespeare was born in Wales.	T F
2. He was a poet and a playwright.	T F
3. He moved to London in the end of the 90s of the 16th century.	T F
4. He started writing poems before the plague.	T F
5. His short plays are called sonnets.	T F
6. The Globe theatre was called so because it was round, and all the people had seats there.	T F
7. Romeo and Juliet is a comedy.	T F

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8. 'Break the ice' is an expression invented by Shakespeare.	T F

Task 2. Make up questions to the text.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Task 3. Study the meaning of the expressions invented by William Shakespeare.

seen better days/ have seen better days	
a piece of work	
fight fire with fire	
a sorry sight	
break the ice	

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