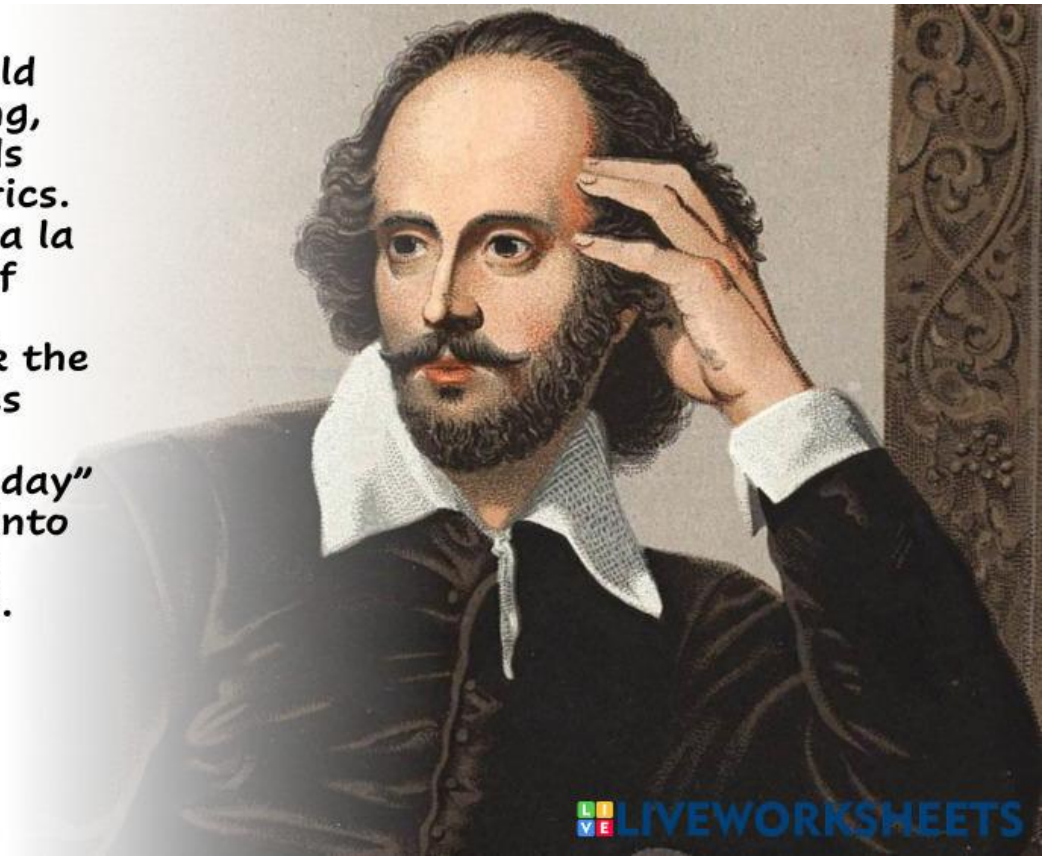


Madrigals



Madrigals were songs in Tudor times which were unaccompanied and sung in various parts. They were mostly sung in English and had a romantic or lyrical theme. Often they were performed to the king or queen during a banquet. They could be composed for a special occasion or a particular season in the Christian calendar.

Sometimes they would employ word-painting, or non-sensical words that broke up the lyrics. A good example is "Fa la la la la" at the end of each line of the Christmas carol Deck the Halls. Other examples include "Hey nonny nonny" and "lack-a-day" which were written into plays and sonnets by William Shakespeare.



Famous composers of English Tudor madrigals were Thomas Thomas, William Byrd and Thomas Morley.

Some of the most famous madrigals were "Now is the month of Maying", "Fair Phyllis" and "Pasttime with Good Company", which was composed by King Henry VIII himself.

