

## Year 9 – Set 7 – William Shakespeare

Hello everyone!

Now that you have finished reading *Macbeth*, it's time to learn a bit about the man who wrote it: William Shakespeare.

We will start with this video, and a short activity of comprehension:

LINK:

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/9ZeyxM2wzw0>



**Task 1: Watch the video and COMPLETE the transcript with ONE WORD in each space.**

William Shakespeare was born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1) \_\_\_\_\_.

His father was a glove maker. His mother Mary was a farmer's daughter.

He had two older sisters, two younger 2) \_\_\_\_\_, and three younger brothers. William probably studied Latin, Greek and history and left school when he was 14 or 15. Three years later he married Anne Hathaway. They had a daughter called Susanna and twins named Judith and Hamnet.

Some time before 1590, he left Stratford and went to 3) \_\_\_\_\_, the capital city of England.

London's first theatre opened in 1576. Shakespeare worked in London as an 4) \_\_\_\_\_ and then started writing plays too. In 1593 the Plague, a terrible disease, killed thousands of people and theatres were 5) \_\_\_\_\_. During this time William started to write poems instead of plays. His short poems are called 6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Shakespeare helped build a new theatre called The Globe. It opened in 1599. It was round and had space for 3000 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 watched 7) \_\_\_\_\_.

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 **comedies** with happy endings, like *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

He wrote **tragedies** which had 8) \_\_\_\_\_ endings, like *Romeo and Juliet*.

His **History plays** are about kings and queens, like *Henry V*.



Shakespeare wrote 38 plays, maybe more. He loved language and invented new words and expressions that we still use today.

William became rich and 9) \_\_\_\_\_. He had houses in London and in Stratford. He died when he was 52 on 23 April 1616. His plays and poetry were very popular 400 years ago and they are still 10) \_\_\_\_\_ today. People all over the world love his work because he wrote wonderful stories about very interesting people.

**Task 2: Comprehension. Choose the right answer from the options in the menu. Only ONE option is correct.**

- 1- William Shakespeare was born...
- 2- He got married...
- 3- He moved to London...
- 4- In 1593, the theatres in London closed because of...
- 5- During this time, Shakespeare wrote his famous...
- 6- Shakespeare helped to build a new theatre...
- 7- In the theatre of Shakespeare's time...
- 8- If you want to cry, Shakespeare's best plays to see are...
- 9- *Henry V* is one of Shakespeare's...
- 10- Shakespeare is important in the history of English because...
- 11- When Shakespeare died...

