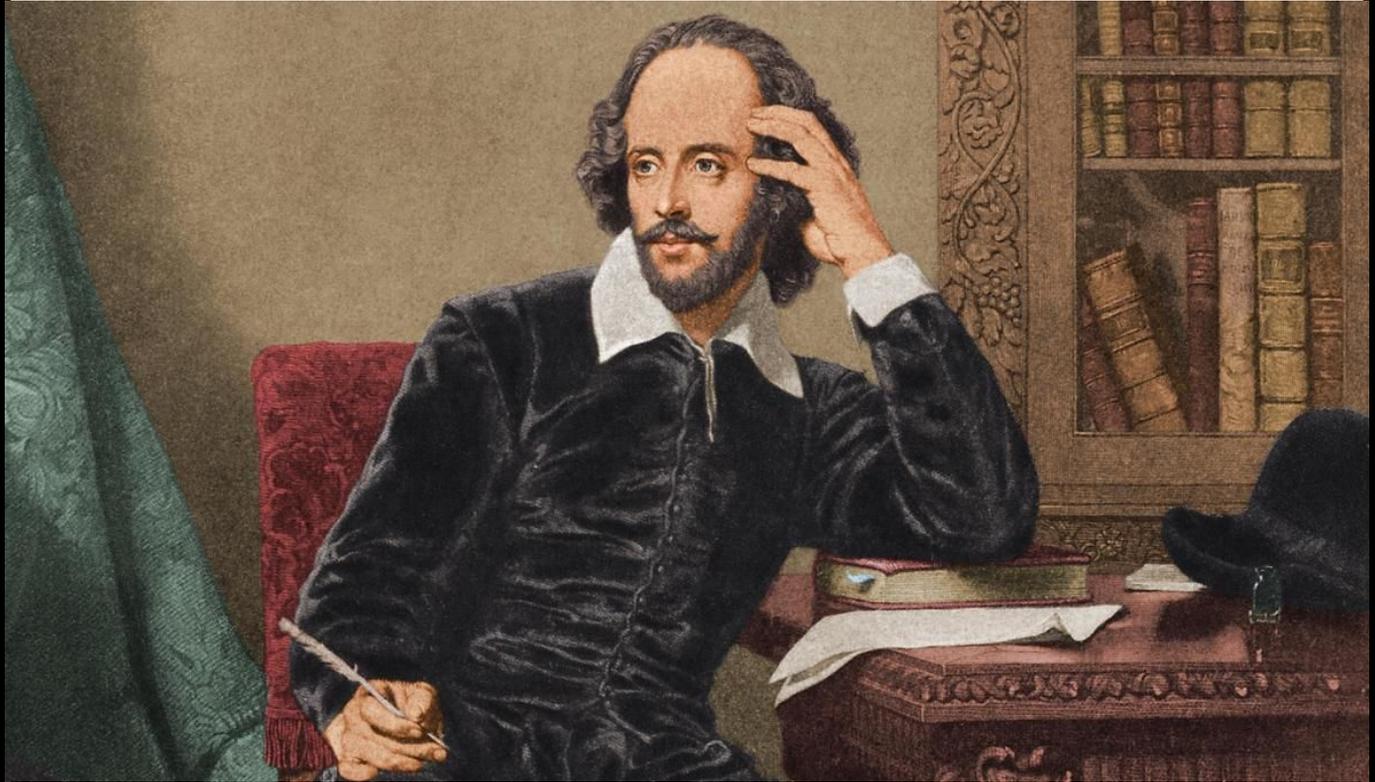


William Shakespeare Facts



William Shakespeare was an English poet, playwright, and actor, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon".

EARLY AND PERSONAL LIFE

- ❖ He was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, an English city which is around 100 miles northwest of London.
- ❖ Nobody knows Shakespeare's true birthday. Since there is very little information on his life outside of his work, his birthday is unknown. Based on church records, we know he was baptised on April 26, 1564 and through tradition and guesswork it is predicted that William was born three days earlier on April 23, 1564 – which is now celebrated as his birthday.



William Shakespeare Facts

- ❖ When he was 18, William married a woman 8 years older than him. Anne Hathaway was 26 when they married at Temple Grafton, a village approximately five miles (8 km) from Stratford.
- ❖ The couple had 3 children. The eldest child was daughter Susanna, born in May 1583. The twins, Hamnet and Judith, were born in January 1585 and were named after two close friends of William: the Stratford baker, Hamlet Sader and his wife, Judith.
- ❖ After Shakespeare's twins were born, there were no records for several years. Historians refer to this time as the "lost years" with many different theories about what Shakespeare was doing during that time. Records eventually showed that they had moved to London where he was working in the theatre.

CONTRIBUTIONS IN LITERATURE

- ❖ Shakespeare is sometimes referred to as "The Bard". The word "bard" means poet and he is called "The Bard" and "The Bard of Avon" because he is considered to be the greatest poet to have ever lived.
- ❖ He never signed his name as "William Shakespeare". Only a few signatures of William's have survived, but those that have show that Shakespeare spelled his name "Wilm Shaksp", "William Shakespe", "Wm Shakspe", "William Shakspere", "Willm Shakspere", and "William Shakspeare" – but his signature never said "William Shakespeare".
- ❖ He wrote his early plays for the Lord Chamberlain's Men. They became one of the most popular acting companies in London thanks to some of Shakespeare's early work, including: *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Richard III*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



William Shakespeare Facts

- ❖ The theatre where plays were performed was shut down in 1597. It was called the “Theatre” and although it was owned by Lord Chamberlain’s Men, the land was owned by a man called Giles Allen. He decided to tear the Theatre down, locked it up, and refused to let actors perform.
- ❖ Several members of the company dismantled the Theatre one night and moved the timber across the Thames River to create a new theatre called the Globe Theatre.
- ❖ The Globe Theatre burned down in 1613. It had become the place to be in London, seating over 3,000 people, and had a uniquely designed stage. It burned to the ground on June 29, 1613, after it was set on fire by a cannon shot during a performance of Shakespeare’s *Henry VIII*.
- ❖ He wrote 37 plays and composed 154 throughout his career. Many of his most successful plays were written in the last half of his career, including: *Macbeth*, *Othello*, *Hamlet*, and *King Lear*.
- ❖ He is one of the most influential writers of the English language. In fact, Shakespeare’s works are the second most often quoted after the Bible.
- ❖ William Shakespeare died on his 52nd birthday, on April 23, 1616. The cause of his death was never recorded and remains a mystery, with some speculating that it was the result of a fever.



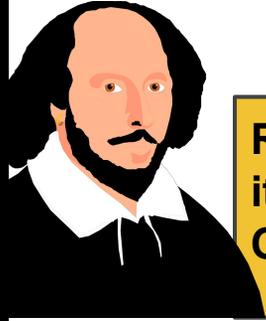
William Shakespeare **Facts**

- ❖ Shakespeare invented over 1700 words. He created new words in a lot of ways, such as: changing nouns to verbs, changing verbs to adjectives, connected words that had never been used together, adding a suffix or prefix, and even creating completely new and original words.
- ❖ Some of the words he invented include: assassination, addiction, advertising, blanket, champion, elbow, gossip, generous, lonely, mimic, ode, puking, rant, secure, swagger, torture, and zany.



Name: _____

As a Matter of Fact



Read each statement carefully and identify whether its a fact about Shakespeare by putting a check mark. Otherwise, change the word that makes it incorrect.

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, an English city which is around 100 miles northwest of France.

Nobody knows Shakespeare's true birthday but it was theorized to be on April 26, 1564.

When he was 18, William married a woman 8 years older than him, Judith Hathaway.

Shakespeare and his wife had 3 children: Susanna, Romeo, and Judith.

After Shakespeare's twins were born, there was no records for several years wherein historians refer to this time as the "dark ages".

Shakespeare is sometimes referred to as "The Bard of Avon".

Shakespeare wrote 37 plays and composed 154 throughout his career.

