

1: Fast facts about Shakespeare :: Life and Times :: Internet Shakespeare Editions

William Shakespeare (baptized on April 26, - April 23,) was an English playwright, actor and poet who also known as the "Bard of Avon" and often called England's national poet.

He helped shape the English we use today, introducing up to words and dozens of well-known phrases. His plays are known around the world for their universal themes and insight into the human condition. Yet much about the playwright is a mystery. It was usual for christenings to take place on the third day after birth. He was born during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, who had recently converted England to Protestantism. William was the third of eight children, though his two elder siblings did not survive childhood. Attendance records from this time have been lost. It is likely that he began his education at the age of six or seven. As his father was now a bailiff, young William probably attended the local grammar school. Its curriculum emphasised Greek classics and pupils also learned plays in Latin. Religious education was also important, and Shakespeare drew on these sources in his later work with classical and religious allusions. Shakespeare probably attended school until about age 14. There is no record of him going to university. Francesco da Mosto investigates how plausible it is that Shakespeare could have visited Venice. Shakespeare married the year-old Anne Hathaway, in when he was 18. She was already three months pregnant with their first child. The baptisms of his three children are the last record of him for seven years, known as his lost years. At some point Shakespeare went to London, leaving his family in Stratford, and established himself as a playwright and actor. A century later his first biographer suggested he fled to London to escape punishment for deer poaching. However, no records have been found of his activities in these years. The next known record of Shakespeare appears after he was already a playwright in London. Drama in Elizabethan theatre shifted from the religious to the secular and companies of players formed to entertain the public under the patronage of noblemen. Scholars suggest the application showed he was now a successful businessman as much as a talented playwright. He that wants money, means, and content is without three good friends. That year the author Francis Meres singled him out from a group of English writers as "the most excellent" in both comedy and tragedy. His work attracted royal attention; he acted in several performances before Queen Elizabeth I. Others suggest Richard II criticised her as it describes the overthrowing of a monarch. The wonder of our stage. James Shapiro on the building of the Globe. The king and the playwright: A Jacobean history BBC 4, The group built their own theatre called the Globe, and Shakespeare owned a 10% share. This made him even wealthier. He invested in property in Stratford and London, and records of his purchases survive. In he bought the second biggest house in Stratford for his family, as well as acres of farmland and a cottage. Later, he bought property to let in London, showing his business acumen. James Shapiro explains the changes Shakespeare faced after King James took the throne. King Lear, Act 1, Scene 1 Around this timeâ€¦

2: Shakespearean Pronouns

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Some time before , a funerary monument was erected in his memory on the north wall, with a half-effigy of him in the act of writing. Its plaque compares him to Nestor , Socrates , and Virgil. Textual evidence also supports the view that several of the plays were revised by other writers after their original composition. The first recorded works of Shakespeare are Richard III and the three parts of Henry VI , written in the early s during a vogue for historical drama. By William Blake , c. His characters become more complex and tender as he switches deftly between comic and serious scenes, prose and poetry, and achieves the narrative variety of his mature work. Henry Fuseli , â€” According to the critic Frank Kermode, "the play-offers neither its good characters nor its audience any relief from its cruelty". Less bleak than the tragedies, these four plays are graver in tone than the comedies of the s, but they end with reconciliation and the forgiveness of potentially tragic errors. Shakespeare in performance It is not clear for which companies Shakespeare wrote his early plays. The title page of the edition of Titus Andronicus reveals that the play had been acted by three different troupes. In Cymbeline, for example, Jupiter descends "in thunder and lightning, sitting upon an eagle: The ghosts fall on their knees. Copper engraving of Shakespeare by Martin Droeshout. It contained 36 texts, including 18 printed for the first time. In the case of King Lear , however, while most modern editions do conflate them, the folio version is so different from the quarto that the Oxford Shakespeare prints them both, arguing that they cannot be conflated without confusion. He dedicated them to Henry Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton. Critics consider that its fine qualities are marred by leaden effects. Scholars are not certain when each of the sonnets was composed, but evidence suggests that Shakespeare wrote sonnets throughout his career for a private readership. It remains unclear if these figures represent real individuals, or if the authorial "I" who addresses them represents Shakespeare himself, though Wordsworth believed that with the sonnets "Shakespeare unlocked his heart". Thou art more lovely and more temperate It is not known whether this was written by Shakespeare himself or by the publisher, Thomas Thorpe , whose initials appear at the foot of the dedication page; nor is it known who Mr. He wrote them in a stylised language that does not always spring naturally from the needs of the characters or the drama. The grand speeches in Titus Andronicus , in the view of some critics, often hold up the action, for example; and the verse in The Two Gentlemen of Verona has been described as stilted.

3: Letters from Shakespeare

William Shakespeare was born on April 23, , in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. His mother, Mary Arden, was the daughter of a wealthy landowner from a neighboring village. His father, John, was a maker of gloves and a trader in farm produce. John also held a number of responsible positions in.

This is the only letter that has ever been found addressed to William Shakspere of Stratford. I am nowe towards the Cowrte in hope of answer for the dispatche of my Buysenes. I feare I shall nott be backe thys night ffrom the Cowrte. Yowres in all kyndenes Ryc. Document 1, , Birthplace Museum, Stratford. The Shakespeare as property buyer and money-lender had some basis in historical fact. Ben Jonson wrote letters too and was the subject of letters. His plays are full of them. Till I have no wife I have nothing in France. Is it not yours? What ever have been thought on in this state, That could be brought to bodily act ere Rome Had circumvention? I think I have the letter here; yes, here it is. I speak not out of weak surmises, but from proof as strong as my grief and as certain as I expect my revenge. That part thou, Pisanio, must act for me, if thy faith be not tainted with the breach of hers. Let thine own hands take away her life: I shall give thee opportunity at Milford-Haven. She hath my letter for the purpose where, if thou fear to strike and to make me certain it is done, thou art the pandar to her dishonour and equally to me disloyal. The Hamlet plot turns also on letters. The first of which Polonius reads to the King and Queen: But you shall hear. Came this from Hamlet to her? Good madam, stay awhile. I will be faithful. They have letters for him. Ere we were two days old at sea, a pirate of very warlike appointment gave us chase. Finding ourselves too slow of sail, we put on a compelled valour, and in the grapple I boarded them. On the instant they got clear of our ship; so I alone became their prisoner. They have dealt with me like thieves of mercy; but they knew what they did: I am to do a good turn for them. Let the King have the letters I have sent, and repair thou to me with as much speed as thou wouldst fly death. I have words to speak in thine ear will make thee dumb; yet are they much too light for the bore of the matter. These good fellows will bring thee where I am. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern hold their course for England. Of them I have much to tell thee. But wilt thou bear me how I did proceed? Being thus benetted round with villanies, Or I could make a prologue to my brains, They had begun the play. Ay, good my lord. Why, even in that was heaven ordinant. And how doth the martlemas, your master? In bodily health, sir. Marry, the immortal part needs a physician; but that not him. Though that be sick, it dies not. I do allow this well to be as familiar with me as my dog and he holds his place, for look you how he writes. Nay, they will be kin to us, or they will fetch it from Japhet. Why, this is a certificate. He sure means brevity in breath, short-winded. Be not too familiar with Poins; for he misuses favours so much that he swears thou art to marry his sister Repent at idle times as thou mayst, and so farewell. The exhalations whizzing in the air Give so much light that I may read by them. O Rome, I make thee promise: If the redress will follow, thou receivest Thy full petition at the hand of Brutus! In King Lear, kent receives a letter from Cordelia: Approach, thou beacon to this under globe, That by thy comfortable beams I may Peruse this letter. Nothing almost sees miracles But misery. Fortune, good night; smile once more, turn thy wheel. In another sub-plot plot turn, Edmund the bastard tricks his father with a letter from his legitimate son Edgar: So please your lordship, none. Why so earnestly seek you to put up that letter? I know no news, my lord. What paper were you reading? What needed then that terrible dispatch of it into your pocket? The quality of nothing hath not such need to hide itself. Come, if it be nothing, I shall not need spectacles. I beseech you, sir, pardon me. Give me the letter, sir. I shall offend, either to detain or give it. The contents, in part I understand them, are to blame. Come to me, that of this I may speak more. Had he a hand to write this? When came this to you? It was not brought me, my lord: I found it thrown in at the casement of my closet. If the matter were good, my lord, I durst swear it were his; but in respect of that, I would fain think it were not. It is his hand, my lord; but I hope his heart is not in the contents. Edgar has killed her servant Oswald, who carried the letters. Sit you down, father; rest you. I am only sorry He had no other deathsman. Leave, gentle wax; and, manners, blame us not. You have many opportunities to cut him off. There is nothing done, if he return the conqueror. Then am I the prisoner, and his bed my jail; from the loathed warmth whereof deliver me, and supply the place for your labour. This time for

comic effect about the dullard Costard written by Don Armado: Will you hear this letter with attention? As we would hear an oracle. Such is the simplicity of man to hearken after the flesh. Not a word of Costard yet. It may be so: Be to me and every man that dares not fight! About the sixth hour; when beasts most graze, birds best peck, and men sit down to that nourishment which is called supper: Now for the ground which; which, I mean, I walked upon: Then for the place where; where, I mean, I did encounter that obscene and preposterous event, that draweth from my snow-white pen the ebon-coloured ink, which here thou viewest, beholdest, surveyest, or seest; but to the place where; it standeth north-north-east and by east from the west corner of thy curious- knotted garden: Thine, in all compliments of devoted and heart-burning heat of duty. But let me hear the letter of your friend. Notwithstanding, use your pleasure: Later a letter of recommendation is sent from bellario to the Duke in Venice on behalf of Portia dressed as a young doctor t law: This letter from Bellario doth commend A young and learned doctor to our court. I acquainted him with the cause in controversy between the Jew and Antonio the merchant: I beseech you, let his lack of years be no impediment to let him lack a reverend estimation; for I never knew so young a body with so old a head. I leave him to your gracious acceptance, whose trial shall better publish his commendation. And here, I take it, is the doctor come.

4: Facts about William Shakespeare | Biography Online

Shakespeare's only son, Hamnet, died in at the age of His older daughter Susanna later married a well-to-do Stratford doctor, John Hall. Their daughter Elizabeth, Shakespeare's first grandchild, was born in

He is also the most famous playwright in the world, with his plays being translated in over 50 languages and performed across the globe for audiences of all ages. Known colloquially as "The Bard" or "The Bard of Avon," Shakespeare was also an actor and the creator of the Globe Theatre, a historical theatre, and company that is visited by hundreds of thousands of tourists every year. His works span tragedy, comedy, and historical works, both in poetry and prose. And although the man is the most-recognized playwright in the world, very little of his life is actually known. No known autobiographical letters or diaries have survived to modern day, and with no surviving descendants, Shakespeare is a figure both of magnificent genius and mystery. This has led to many interpretations of his life and works, creating a legend out of the commoner from Stratford-upon-Avon who rose to prominence and in the process wrote many of the seminal works that provide the foundation for the current English language. He was one of eight children and lived to be the eldest surviving son of the family. A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool. There he studied the basic Latin text and grammar, much of which was standardized across the country by Royal decree. He was also known to partake in the theatre while at the school as was the custom at the time. In 1582, a year-old Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway, who, on the occasion of her wedding, was 26 years old and already with child. Hamnet died at the age of 11 from unknown reasons. We know what we are, but know not what we may be. Career and Creation of the Globe William Shakespeare first made his appearance on the London stage, where his plays would be written and performed, around 1592, although the exact date is unknown. He was, however, well known enough to be attacked by critics in newspapers, and thus was considered to be already an established playwright. Shakespeare, along with a group of players that acted in his play, created his own theatre on the River Thames in 1599 and named it the Globe Theatre. After that, a record of property purchases and investments made by Shakespeare showed the playwright had become a very wealthy man, so much so that he bought properties in London and Stratford for himself and his family, as he spent most of his time in London. This led to his success as both an actor on stage and a playwright, and his name was published on the title page of his plays. Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none. He, however, continued to support the Globe Theatre, including buying apartments for playwrights and actors to live in, all of which were near to the theatre. Retirement and Death Shakespeare retired from public life in 1609, right after the bubonic plague began to subside its attack on London. This act was unusual for the time, but he was by no means less active. In fact, the playwright continued to make frequent trips to London to collaborate with other playwrights, such as John Fletcher, and to spend time with his son-in-law John Hall, who married his elder daughter Susanna in 1608. The playwright was an active dramatist and writer up until when the last of his great works was finished. From then on, Shakespeare spent most of his time in Stratford-upon-Avon, where he had purchased the second-largest home in town for his family. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them. He was 52 years old at the time of his death and was survived by his wife, Anna, and their two daughters. The Shakespeare Canon Shakespeare was noted both for poetry and plays, with both mediums serving different needs; the plays were related to the theatrical fashion that was on trend while his poetry served to provide storytelling in erotic or romantic ways, culminating in a canon of work that is as diverse in language as the issues of human nature that the works portray. Plays William Shakespeare wrote at least 37 plays that scholars know of, with most of them labeled as comedies, histories, or tragedies. The earliest play that is directly attributed to Shakespeare is the trilogy of "King Henry VI," with Richard III also being written around the same time, between 1591 and 1592. The empty vessel makes the loudest sound. For the last portion of his writing career, Shakespeare focused his work on tragedies and "problem" plays. These are the works that are most in production today, both on stage and in film. Poems and Sonnets There are two volumes of poetry and over 150 sonnets that are attributed to Shakespeare. It is thought that although Shakespeare was a poet throughout his lifetime, he turned to poetry most notably during 1600 and when a plague

forced theatres in London to shut down. The volumes of narrative poems that Shakespeare released during those years were called *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*. Both volumes focused on the problems surrounding uncontrollable lust and the guilt associated with it afterwards and were very well received during his lifetime, partially for their erotic tone. *Hell is empty and all the devils are here*. It is widely thought that the sonnets were a part of a private diary that was never meant to be read publicly but nevertheless were published. Critics have praised the sonnets as being profoundly intimate and meditating on the values of love, lust, procreation, and death. He is the most-read playwright in the Western Hemisphere, and the English language is littered with quotes and phrases that originated from his works. He is also the inventor of the iambic pentameter, a form of poetry that is still widely used today. He is also one of the most influential figures in English literature, having had a profound impact on everyone from Herman Melville and Charles Dickens to Agatha Christie and Anthony Burgess. But his influence did not stop at just the arts - the psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud used Hamlet as the foundation for many of his theories on human nature, and his influence can be felt in painting and opera as well, particularly from the operas of Giuseppe Verdi and the whole community of Romantic and Pre-Raphaelite painters. Brevity is the soul of wit. There are over seven dozen examples that can be taken from common life and be directly attributed to Shakespeare, meaning that much of how people speak to each other now has a history that dates back to the 17th century. Aside from phrases, it is also common knowledge that the dramatist introduced upwards of 1,000 original words to the English language, which, during the 16th and 17th centuries, was not standardized. In fact, words such as *lonely*, *frugal*, *dwindle*, and more originate from Shakespeare, who transformed English into the populist language that it is today.

5: Shakespeare's Life | Folger Shakespeare Library

As large of an issue it is for students to understand their Shakespeare assignments, please refrain from expecting us to do your homework for you. If you're looking for help, please include your own work thus far in the question.

He is a writer of great intellectual rapidity, perceptiveness, and poetic power. Other writers have had these qualities, but with Shakespeare the keenness of mind was applied not to abstruse or remote subjects but to human beings and their complete range of emotions and conflicts. Other writers have applied their keenness of mind in this way, but Shakespeare is astonishingly clever with words and images, so that his mental energy, when applied to intelligible human situations, finds full and memorable expression, convincing and imaginatively stimulating. As if this were not enough, the art form into which his creative energies went was not remote and bookish but involved the vivid stage impersonation of human beings, commanding sympathy and inviting vicarious participation. Shakespeare the man Life Although the amount of factual knowledge available about Shakespeare is surprisingly large for one of his station in life, many find it a little disappointing, for it is mostly gleaned from documents of an official character. Dates of baptisms, marriages, deaths, and burials; wills, conveyances, legal processes, and payments by the court—these are the dusty details. There are, however, many contemporary allusions to him as a writer, and these add a reasonable amount of flesh and blood to the biographical skeleton. William Shakespeare This film recounts the life of Shakespeare from his early boyhood through his productive years as a playwright and actor in London. Early life in Stratford The parish register of Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, shows that he was baptized there on April 26; his birthday is traditionally celebrated on April His father, John Shakespeare, was a burgess of the borough, who in was chosen an alderman and in bailiff the position corresponding to mayor, before the grant of a further charter to Stratford in He was engaged in various kinds of trade and appears to have suffered some fluctuations in prosperity. His wife, Mary Arden, of Wilmcote, Warwickshire, came from an ancient family and was the heiress to some land. Given the somewhat rigid social distinctions of the 16th century, this marriage must have been a step up the social scale for John Shakespeare. No lists of the pupils who were at the school in the 16th century have survived, but it would be absurd to suppose the bailiff of the town did not send his son there. Shakespeare did not go on to the university, and indeed it is unlikely that the scholarly round of logic, rhetoric, and other studies then followed there would have interested him. Instead, at age 18 he married. Anne died in, seven years after Shakespeare. There is good evidence to associate her with a family of Hathaways who inhabited a beautiful farmhouse, now much visited, 2 miles [3]. The next date of interest is found in the records of the Stratford church, where a daughter, named Susanna, born to William Shakespeare, was baptized on May 26, On February 2, , twins were baptized, Hamnet and Judith. How Shakespeare spent the next eight years or so, until his name begins to appear in London theatre records, is not known. There are stories—given currency long after his death—of stealing deer and getting into trouble with a local magnate, Sir Thomas Lucy of Charlecote, near Stratford; of earning his living as a schoolmaster in the country; of going to London and gaining entry to the world of theatre by minding the horses of theatregoers. It has also been conjectured that Shakespeare spent some time as a member of a great household and that he was a soldier, perhaps in the Low Countries. But this method is unsatisfactory: Page 1 of

6: Shakespeare's Personal Life. by Megan Lee on Prezi

The English of Shakespeare's time used ten pronouns: thou, thee, thy, thyself, thine, ye, you, your, yourself, and yours. The rules governing the use of these ten pronouns were both grammatical and cultural—that is, their application depended not only on syntax but also on the social status of the person or persons addressed.

William Shakespeare The English playwright, poet, and actor William Shakespeare is generally acknowledged to be the greatest of English writers and one of the most extraordinary creators in human history. Born 6 years after Queen Elizabeth I had ascended the throne, contemporary with the high period of the English Renaissance, Shakespeare had the good luck to find in the theater of London a medium just coming into its own and an audience, drawn from a wide range of social classes, eager to reward talents of the sort he possessed. His entire life was committed to the public theater, and he seems to have written nondramatic poetry only when enforced closings of the theater made writing plays impractical. Shakespeare was born on or just before April 23, , in the small but then important Warwickshire town of Stratford. His mother, born Mary Arden, was the daughter of a landowner from a neighboring village. By , however, John Shakespeare had begun to encounter the financial difficulties which were to plague him until his death in . Like other Elizabethan schoolboys, Shakespeare studied Latin grammar during the early years, then progressed to the study of logic, rhetoric, composition, oration, versification, and the monuments of Roman literature. A plausible tradition holds that William had to discontinue his education when about 13 in order to help his father. At 18 he married Ann Hathaway, a Stratford girl. They had three children Susanna, ; Hamnet, ; and his twin, Judith, and who was to survive him by 7 years. Shakespeare remained actively involved in Stratford affairs throughout his life, even when living in London, and retired there at the end of his career. The earliest surviving notice of his career in London is a jealous attack on the "upstart crow" by Robert Greene, a playwright, professional man of letters, and profligate whose career was at an end in though he was only 6 years older than Shakespeare. If the first of the comedies is most notable for its plotting and the second for its romantic elements, the third is distinguished by its dazzling language and its gallery of comic types. Already Shakespeare had learned to fuse conventional characters with convincing representations of the human life he knew. Nothing so ambitious had ever been attempted in England in a form hitherto marked by slapdash formlessness. When the theaters were closed because of plague during much of , Shakespeare looked to nondramatic poetry for his support and wrote two narrative masterpieces, the seriocomic *Venus and Adonis* and the tragic *Rape of Lucrece*, for a wealthy patron, the Earl of Southampton. Both poems carry the sophisticated techniques of Elizabethan narrative verse to their highest point, drawing on the resources of Renaissance mythological and symbolic traditions. Writing at the end of a brief, frenzied vogue for sequences of sonnets, Shakespeare found in the conventional line lyric with its fixed rhyme scheme a vehicle for inexhaustible technical innovations—“for Shakespeare even more than for other poets, the restrictive nature of the sonnet generates a paradoxical freedom of invention that is the life of the form—and for the expression of emotions and ideas ranging from the frivolous to the tragic. Though often suggestive of autobiographical revelation, the sonnets cannot be proved to be any the less fictions than the plays. The identity of their dedicatee, "Mr. But the chief value of these poems is intrinsic: The company performed regularly in unroofed but elaborate theaters. Required by law to be set outside the city limits, these theaters were the pride of London, among the first places shown to visiting foreigners, and seated up to 3, people. The actors played on a huge platform stage equipped with additional playing levels and surrounded on three sides by the audience; the absence of scenery made possible a flow of scenes comparable to that of the movies, and music, costumes, and ingenious stage machinery created successful illusions under the afternoon sun. For this company Shakespeare produced a steady outpouring of plays. *Romeo and Juliet* , *Julius Caesar* , and *Hamlet* . Different from one another as they are, these three plays share some notable features: More impressively than the first tetralogy, the second turns history into art. Spanning the poles of comedy and tragedy, alive with a magnificent variety of unforgettable characters, linked to one another as one great play while each is a complete and independent success in its own right—the four plays pose disturbing and unanswerable

questions about politics, making one ponder the frequent difference between the man capable of ruling and the man worthy of doing so, the meaning of legitimacy in office, the value of order and stability as against the value of revolutionary change, and the relation of private to public life. The plays are exuberant works of art, but they are not optimistic about man as a political animal, and their unblinking recognition of the dynamics of history has made them increasingly popular and relevant in our own tormented era. *Troilus and Cressida*, hardest of the plays to classify generically, is a brilliant, sardonic, and disillusioned piece on the Trojan War, unusually philosophical in its language and reminiscent in some ways of *Hamlet*. During his last decade in the theater Shakespeare was to write fewer but perhaps even finer plays. Almost all the greatest tragedies belong to this period. Though they share the qualities of the earlier tragedies, taken as a group they manifest new tendencies. The heroes are dominated by passions that make their moral status increasingly ambiguous, their freedom increasingly circumscribed; similarly the society, even the cosmos, against which they strive suggests less than ever that all can ever be right in the world. The late tragedies are each in its own way dramas of alienation, and their focus, like that of the histories, continues to be felt as intensely relevant to the concerns of modern men. *Othello* is concerned, like other plays of the period, with sexual impurity, with the difference that that impurity is the fantasy of the protagonist about his faithful wife. Iago, the villain who drives *Othello* to doubt and murder, is the culmination of two distinct traditions, the "Machiavellian" conniver who uses deceit in order to subvert the order of the polity, and the Vice, a schizophrenically tragicomic devil figure from the morality plays going out of fashion as Shakespeare grew up. Transformed from its fairy-tale-like origins, the play involves its characters and audience alike in metaphysical questions that are felt rather than thought. *Macbeth*, similarly based on English chronicle material, concentrates on the problems of evil and freedom, convincingly mingling the supernatural with a representation of history, and makes a paradoxically sympathetic hero of a murderer who sins against family and state—a man in some respects worse than the villain of *Hamlet*. Both of these tragedies present ancient history with a vividness that makes it seem contemporary, though the sensuousness of *Antony and Cleopatra*, the richness of its detail, the ebullience of its language, and the seductive character of its heroine have made it far more popular than the harsh and austere *Coriolanus*. One more tragedy, *Timon of Athens*, similarly based on Plutarch, was written during this period, though its date is obscure. Despite its abundant brilliance, few find it a fully satisfactory play, and some critics have speculated that what we have may be an incomplete draft. The handful of tragedies that Shakespeare wrote between and comprises an astonishing series of worlds different from one another, created of language that exceeds anything Shakespeare had done before, some of the most complex and vivid characters in all the plays, and a variety of new structural techniques. A final group of plays takes a turn in a new direction. While such work in the hands of others, however, tended to reflect the socially and intellectually narrow interests of an elite audience, Shakespeare turned the fashionable mode into a new kind of personal art form. Though less searing than the great tragedies, these plays have a unique power to move and are in the realm of the highest art. *Pericles* and *Cymbeline* seem somewhat tentative and experimental, though both are superb plays. Like a rewriting of *Othello* in its first acts, it turns miraculously into pastoral comedy in its last. *The Tempest* is the most popular and perhaps the finest of the group. Prospero, shipwrecked on an island and dominating it with magic which he renounces at the end, may well be intended as an image of Shakespeare himself; in any event, the play is like a retrospective glance over the plays of the 2 previous decades. After the composition of *The Tempest*, which many regard as an explicit farewell to art, Shakespeare retired to Stratford, returning to London to compose *Henry VIII* and *The Two Noble Kinsmen* in ; neither of these plays seems to have fired his imagination. In , at the age of 52, he was dead. His reputation grew quickly, and his work has continued to seem to each generation like its own most precious discovery. His value to his own age is suggested by the fact that two fellow actors performed the virtually unprecedented act in of gathering his plays together and publishing them in the Folio edition. Without their efforts, since Shakespeare was apparently not interested in publication, many of the plays would not have survived. Further Reading Alfred Harbage, ed. For editions of individual plays the New Arden Shakespeare, in progress, is the best series. The authoritative source for biographical information is Sir Edmund K. A Study of Facts and Problems 2 vols. Reliable briefer accounts are Marchette G. A Biographical Handbook The body of Shakespeare criticism is so large that selection must

be arbitrary. Twentieth-century criticism can be sampled in Leonard F. Modern Essays in Criticism ; rev. Other noteworthy studies include G. Wilson Knight, The Wheel of Fire: Traversi, An Approach to Shakespeare ; rev. Clare Byrne 4 vols. Studies of the theaters are in C. Walter Hodges, The Globe Restored: A Study of the Elizabethan Theatre , and A. The best account of early Renaissance drama is in Frank P. Campbell and Edward G.

7: William Shakespeare: 20 Facts, 37 Plays, Poems, Quotes & Bio

William Shakespeare was an actor, playwright, poet, and theatre entrepreneur in London during the late Elizabethan and early Jacobean eras. He was baptised on 26 April in Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire, England, in the Holy Trinity Church.

Stratford-upon-Avon, England English dramatist and poet The English playwright, poet, and actor William Shakespeare was a popular dramatist. He was born six years after Queen Elizabeth I ascended the throne, in the height of the English Renaissance. He found in the theater of London a medium just coming into its own and an audience eager to reward talents of the sort he possessed. He is generally acknowledged to be the greatest of English writers and one of the most extraordinary creators in human history. His mother, Mary Arden, was the daughter of a wealthy landowner from a neighboring village. His father, John, was a maker of gloves and a trader in farm produce. It is believed that he had to discontinue his education at about thirteen in order to financially help his father. At eighteen he married Ann Hathaway. They had three children, Susanna, Hamnet, and Judith. Some have speculated guessed that he was a traveling actor or a country schoolmaster. The earliest surviving mention of his career in London, England, is a jealous attack by Robert Greene, a playwright, which indicates that Shakespeare had already established himself in the capital. It is hard to believe that even Shakespeare could have shown the mastery evident in his plays without several years of apprenticeship the period of time a person works to learn a skill. Early comedies Three early comedies demonstrate that Shakespeare had learned to fuse conventional characters with convincing representations of the human life he knew. Most acknowledge it as a brilliant and intricate farce a humorous piece of work with a story unlikely to happen in real life involving two sets of identical twins. The plot of his next comedy, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* revolves around a faithful girl who educates her fickle inconsistent lover. It has romantic woods, a girl dressed as a boy, sudden changes, music, and happy marriages at the end. They quickly surrender to a group of young ladies who come to live nearby. They deal with the tumultuous disorderly, agitating events of English history between the death of Henry V in and Henry VII assuming the throne. *William Shakespeare*. Nothing so ambitious as this monumental sequence had ever before been attempted in an English play. It is recognized as a brilliant and successful piece in the tradition of the revenge play where someone tries to punish someone for a wrong that was done. Nondramatic works The theaters were closed because of plague a bacteria-caused disease that spreads quickly and can cause death during much of and At this time Shakespeare wrote two narrative poems for the Earl of Southampton. Both the serio-comic both happy and sad *Venus and Adonis* and the tragic *Rape of Lucrece* are based on the Renaissance traditions of myth and symbolism. They were probably composed in this period but were not published until *Sonnets* are fourteen-line poems with a fixed rhyme scheme. Though they often suggest autobiographical revelation the discovery or realization in oneself, the sonnets cannot be proved to be any less fictional than the plays. This was one of the two leading companies of actors. He also became a regular actor in the company and a partner in the group of artist-managers who ran it. The company performed regularly in unroofed but elaborate theaters that seated up to three thousand people. The actors performed on a huge platform stage equipped with additional levels for performances. The audience sat on three sides or stood on the ground in front of the stage. In this group had the *Globe Theater* built on the south bank of the *Thames River*. Shakespeare produced many plays for the company. *Romeo and Juliet*, *Julius Caesar*, and *Hamlet* Although very different from each other, they share the setting of intense personal tragedy in a large world vividly populated by what seems like the whole range of humanity. Like most of his contemporaries in the theater, Shakespeare used the same techniques in writing comedies as tragedies. Politics are constantly present, and what is best in the protagonist hero is what does him in when he finds himself in conflict with the world. Shakespeare, continuing his interest in the historical play, wrote *King John* Despite its one strong character it is a relatively weak play. These four plays pose disturbing questions about politics, particularly the difference between the man capable of ruling and the man worthy of doing so. They are not optimistic about man as a political animal. *Troilus and Cressida*, is a brilliant, sardonic skeptically humorous, and disillusioned piece on the Trojan War. Measure for

Measure focuses on the link between political power and romantic desire. During his last decade in the theater Shakespeare was to write fewer but perhaps even finer plays. Almost all the greatest tragedies belong to this period, and they share several qualities. The heroes are dominated by passions that make their moral having to do with right and wrong status increasingly ambiguous not clearly one thing or another and their freedom increasingly constricted. In the end, what destroys the hero is what is best about him. Like the histories, the late tragedies continue to be felt as intensely relevant to the concerns of modern men. Othello is concerned with trust and betrayal. In King Lear an aged king foolishly deprives his only loving daughter of her heritage in order to leave everything to her hypocritical only pretending to have morals and vicious sisters. Macbeth concentrates on the problems of evil and freedom. It mingles the supernatural with history, and makes a sympathetic hero of a murderer who sins against family and state. Antony and Cleopatra sets the temptation of romantic desire against the call to Roman duty. Coriolanus pits a protagonist hero who cannot live with hypocrisy pretending to believe in something against a society built on it. Both of these tragedies present ancient history with a vividness intensity that makes it seem contemporary. The romances A final group of plays takes a turn in a new direction. The Tempest is the most popular and perhaps the finest of the group. In it Prospero and his daughter are shipwrecked on an island inhabited by supernatural creatures. Prospero rules the island with magic, but renounces gives up magic at the end. After the composition of The Tempest Shakespeare retired to Stratford. Neither seems to have fired his imagination. He died in Stratford-upon-Avon on April 23, 1616, at the age of fifty-two. His value to his own age is suggested by the fact that two fellow actors performed the virtually unprecedented never done before act in of gathering his plays together and publishing them in the Folio edition. Without their efforts, since Shakespeare was apparently not interested in publication, many of the plays would not have survived. Yale University Press, Chambers, Sir Edmund K. A Study of Facts and Problems. Oxford University Press, De Grazia, Margreta, and Stanley Wells, eds. The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare. Cambridge University Press, Adventure with the Bard. A Compact Documentary Life. A Life in the Theatre. Comment about this article, ask questions, or add new information about this topic:

8: William Shakespeare Biography

Personal Background. William Shakespeare was born in in Stratford-upon-Avon, England, northwest of London, to John Shakespeare and Mary Arden.

The rules governing the use of these ten pronouns were both grammatical and cultural—that is, their application depended not only on syntax but also on the social status of the person or persons addressed. In addition, the table includes an entry for ye as a definite article or adjective meaning the. Thou art my friend. To address a person of inferior status, such as a child or servant; to address a friend; to impart a poetic ring when expressing profound thoughts or reciting a prayer. Thou art, thou hast, thou wast, thou hadst. I give thee all my love. Here is thy sword. Thy is not used before words beginning with a vowel or before words beginning with a silent h followed by a vowel. Instead, thine is used. This sword is thine. Where is thine enemy? To show possession without a following noun or with a following noun beginning with a vowel or a silent h followed by a vowel. Thou thyself art a fool. Thou thyself art, thou thyself hadst. Ye Early Use Case: Ye are mighty lords. To address several persons of exalted social position s. Ye Later Use Case: Ye are a fool. Ye are all fools. Ye olde tavern pronounced as the old tavern ; Ye gods pronounced as the gods. To modify a noun in the same way as the definite article the. Shakespeare generally did not use "ye" in this sense.

9: BBC - iWonder - William Shakespeare: The life and legacy of England's bard

We know a fair amount about Shakespeare's background, something about his education, a good deal about his work in the theater, that he was married and had three children, one of whom died at the age of

William Shakespeare [3] was born in Stratford-upon-Avon. His exact date of birth is not known—the baptismal record was dated 26 April—but has been traditionally taken to be 23 April, which is also the Feast Day of Saint George, the patron saint of England. He was the first son and the first surviving child in the family; two earlier children, Joan and Margaret, had died early. They had eight children: Joan baptised 15 September, died in infancy, Margaret bapt. London, 31 December. John Shakespeare owned several properties in Stratford and had a profitable—though illegal—sideline of dealing in wool. He was appointed to several municipal offices and served as an alderman in, culminating in a term as bailiff, the chief magistrate of the town council, in. For reasons unclear to history he fell upon hard times, beginning in, when William was. After four years of non-attendance at council meetings, he was finally replaced as burgess in. It was free to all male children and the evidence indicates that John Shakespeare sent his sons there for a grammar school education, though no attendance records survive. Shakespeare would have been enrolled when he was 7, in. The school day typically ran from 6 a. Grammar schools varied in quality during the Elizabethan era, but the grammar curriculum was standardised by royal decree throughout England, [9] and the school would have provided an intensive education in Latin grammar and literature—as good a formal literary training as had any of his contemporaries". As a part of this education, the students performed Latin plays to better understand rhetoric. By the end of their studies at age 14, grammar school pupils were quite familiar with the great Latin authors, and with Latin drama and rhetoric. The licence, issued by the consistory court of the diocese of Worcester, 21 miles west of Stratford, allowed the two to marry with only one proclamation of the marriage banns in church instead of the customary three successive Sundays. The reason for the special licence appeared six months later with the baptism of their first daughter, Susanna, on 26 May. This seven-year period, known as the "lost years" to Shakespeare scholars, was filled by early biographers with surmises drawn from local traditions, and by more recent biographers with surmises about the onset of his acting career deduced from textual and bibliographic hints and the surviving records of the various playing troupes of the time. Shakespeare mythos[edit] Shakespeare Before Thomas Lucy, a typical Victorian illustration of the poaching anecdote Several hypotheses have been put forth to account for his life during this time, and a number of accounts are given by his earliest biographers. Johnson adds that the story had been told to Alexander Pope by Rowe. Honigmann proposed that Shakespeare acted as a schoolmaster in Lancashire, [19] on the evidence found in the will of a member of the Houghton family, referring to plays and play-clothes and asking his kinsman Thomas Hesketh to take care of "William Shakeshaft, now dwelling with me". How or when Shakespeare got into acting is unknown. Before being allowed to perform for the general public, touring playing companies were required to present their play before the town council to be licensed. Players first acted in Stratford in, the year that John Shakespeare was bailiff. Before Shakespeare turned 20, the Stratford town council had paid for at least 18 performances by at least 12 playing companies. In one playing season alone, that of, five different acting troupes visited Stratford. The works are written within the frame of reference of the career actor, rather than a member of the learned professions or from scholarly book-learning. The application was successfully renewed in, most probably at the instigation of William himself as he was the more prosperous at the time. The motto "Non sanz droict" "Not without right" was attached to the application, but it was not used on any armorial displays that have survived. The theme of social status and restoration runs deep through the plots of many of his plays, and at times Shakespeare seems to mock his own longing. Also by, his name began to appear on the title pages of his plays, presumably as a selling point. Legal documents from, when the case was brought to trial, show that Shakespeare was a tenant of Christopher Mountjoy, a Huguenot tire-maker a maker of ornamental headdresses in the northwest of London in. Shakespeare was enlisted as a go-between, to help negotiate the details of the dowry. Eight years later, Bellott sued his father-in-law for delivering only part of the dowry. During the Bellott v. Mountjoy case, Shakespeare

was called to testify, but said he remembered little of the circumstances. Shakespeare himself seems to have lived in rented accommodation while in London. According to John Aubrey, he travelled to Stratford to stay with his family for a period each year. Speculators were acquiring excess quantities in the hope of profiting from scarcity. This has often been interpreted as evidence that he was listed as a hoarder. According to Mark Eccles, "the schoolmaster, Mr. Aspinall, had eleven quarters, and the vicar, Mr. Lewis, however, suggest that he purchased the malt as an investment, since he later sued a neighbour, Philip Rogers, for an unpaid debt for twenty bushels of malt. In short, he had become an entrepreneur specialising in real estate and agricultural products, an aspect of his identity further enhanced by his investments in local farmland and farm produce. Boehrer suggests he was pursuing an "overall investment strategy aimed at controlling as much as possible of the local grain market", a strategy that was highly successful. The town clerk Thomas Greene, who opposed the enclosure, recorded a conversation with Shakespeare about the issue. Shakespeare said he believed the enclosure would not go through, a prediction that turned out to be correct. The purchase was probably an investment, as Shakespeare was living mainly in Stratford by this time, and the apartment was rented out to one John Robinson. Robinson may be the same man recorded as a labourer in Stratford, in which case it is possible he worked for Shakespeare. In he was called as a witness in the Bellott v. Susanna and her husband Dr John Hall sued for slander. Lane failed to appear and was convicted. From November Shakespeare was in London for several weeks with his son-in-law, Hall. Shakespeare died on 23 April which was also the day of his birth and the feast day of St. George, patron of England , at the reputed age of No extant contemporary source explains how or why he died. After half a century had passed, John Ward , the vicar of Stratford, wrote in his notebook: Of the tributes that started to come from fellow authors, one refers to his relatively early death: His son Hamnet had died in His last surviving descendant was his granddaughter Elizabeth Hall , daughter of Susanna and John Hall. A monument on the wall nearest his grave, probably placed by his family, [44] features a bust showing Shakespeare posed in the act of writing. Each year on his claimed birthday, a new quill pen is placed in the writing hand of the bust. He is believed to have written the epitaph on his tombstone. Blest be the man that spares these stones, And cursed be he that moves my bones.

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