

# William Shakespeare

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“The Bard of Avon”

Accepted date of birth is April 23, 1564

Baptized April 26, 1564

Died April 23, 1616 at the age of 52- cause remains a mystery

Born and raised in Stratford-upon-Avon

# Location of Stratford-Upon-Avon

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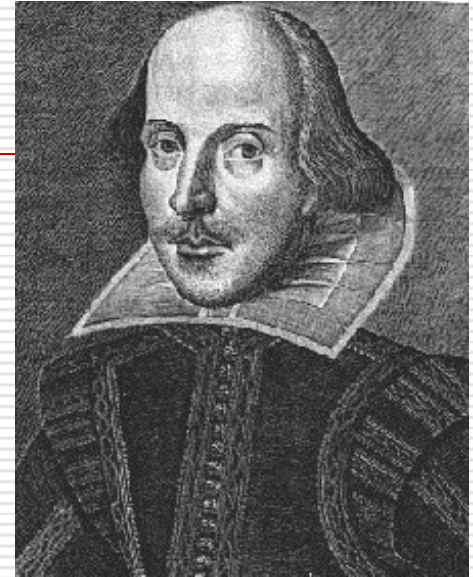


**Stratford-Upon-Avon is 104 miles from London, which takes about 2 hours, and 15 minutes by car. However, in the 1500's, it took a full day to get to London from Stratford.**

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# Well Known-Facts about Shakespeare



- Great writer of England
  - Most quoted other than the Bible
  - Popular during his lifetime
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# Lesser-Known Facts about Shakespeare

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- Teen father: married pregnant 26 year old Anne Hathaway when he was 18
  - Deadbeat dad: Left wife and children for London stage career  
Father of twins
  - Elizabethan rapper: uses rhythm and rhyme
  - “Plagiarism” – based on tales, most notably from Arthur Brooke
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# Will's Family

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- ❑ John Shakespeare—dad—a glovemaker
  - ❑ Mary Arden—mom—from a great family
  - ❑ Anne Hathaway—wife
  - ❑ Children—Susanna, Hamnet & Judith (twins)
  - ❑ Hamnet died at age 11
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# Conditions in London

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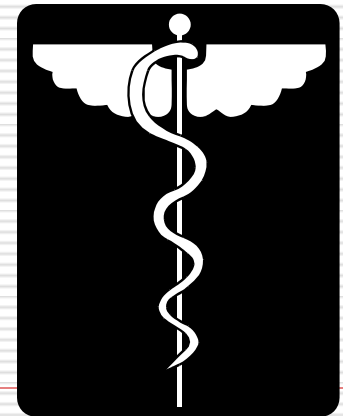


- ❑ Thames River polluted with raw sewage
  - ❑ Trees used up for fuel
  - ❑ Poverty
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# Personal hygiene/health

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- Bathing considered dangerous
- Body odor strong
- Childhood diseases
- Children often died before 5 years
- Small Pox
- Bubonic Plague



# Living Conditions

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- No running water
  - Chamber Pots
  - Open Sewers
  - Crowded
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# Clothes

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- ❑ One set used all year long, rarely washed
- ❑ Underclothing slept in, infrequently changed
- ❑ Clothes handed down from rich to poor

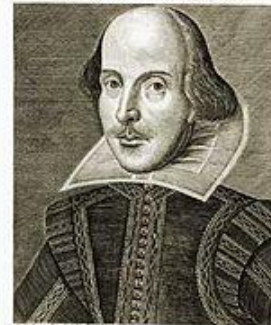


# Shakespeare's Works

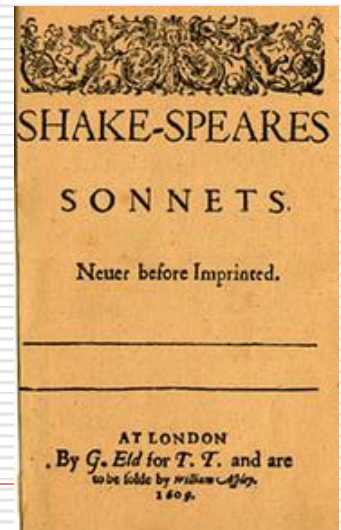
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- ❑ He wrote 37 plays
- ❑ He wrote in many genres: comedy, tragedy, history
- ❑ He also published a collection of sonnets and poetry

Mr. WILLIAM  
SHAKESPEARES  
COMEDIES,  
HISTORIES, &  
TRAGEDIES.  
Printed according to the True Originall Copies.

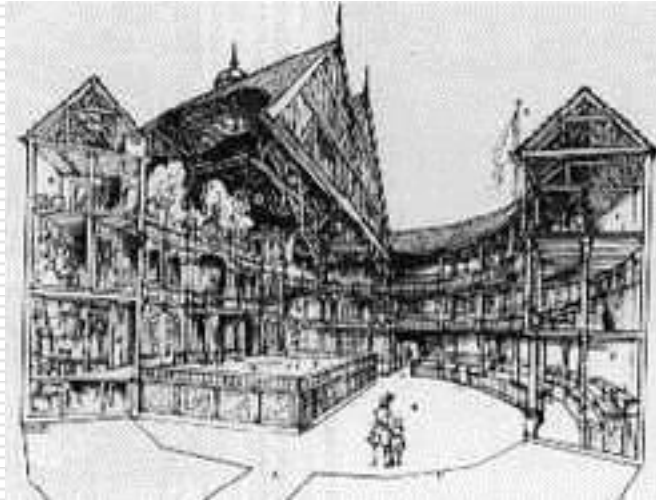


LONDON  
Printed by Isaac Iaggard, and Ed. Blount. 1617.



# Theater in London

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- ❑ Performed in courtyards of inns
  - ❑ The Theater-first public theater-1576
  - ❑ Daytime/open air
  - ❑ Limited set design
  - ❑ Relied on music, sound, costumes, props and great description
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# The Globe

- ❑ Built in 1599
- ❑ The King's Men (originally Lord Chamberlain's Men)- acting company to which Shakespeare belonged
- ❑ Penny admission
- ❑ Shakespeare wrote plays for this theater, acted upon its stage, and helped pay for its construction
- ❑ Burned down during one of Shakespeare's plays in 1613
- ❑ Rebuilt in 1614
- ❑ Closed in 1642 due to a Puritanical regime
- ❑ Rebuilt in 1997



# Actors

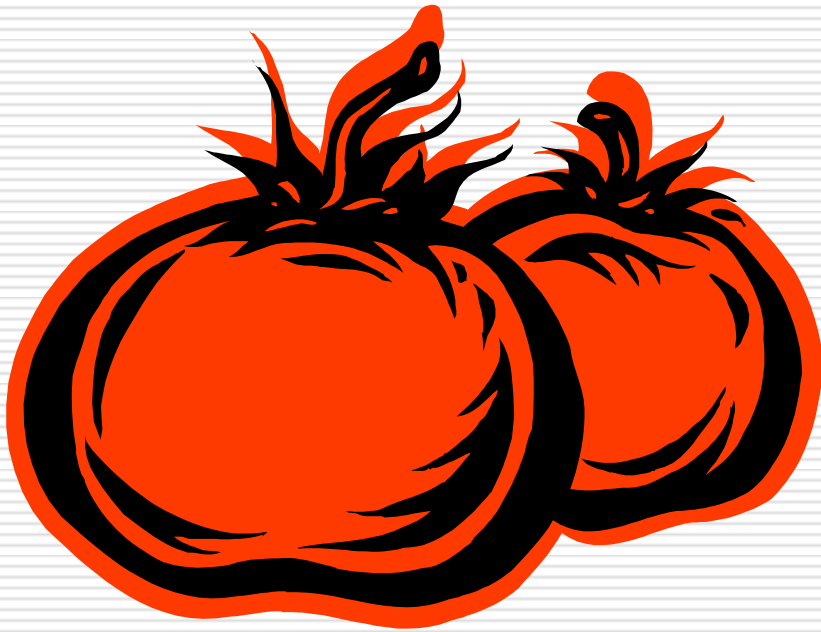
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- All men
  - Female parts played by young boys
  - No actual kissing or hugging on stage
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# The groundling

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- Poor audience member
  - Stood around stage in "the pit"
  - Women not allowed (had to dress up as men to attend)
  - Threw rotten vegetables at bad performances
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# “Romeo and Juliet”

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- ❑ Tragedy
  - ❑ Written in 1595
  - ❑ Set in Verona, Italy
  - ❑ Themes: parental control/rebellious teens; fate/freewill; impulsive behavior/self-control
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# Queen Elizabeth

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- ❑ Bastard daughter of King Henry VIII and Ann Boleyn (2nd of 6 wives)
  - ❑ Henry had Ann beheaded for “treason”
  - ❑ A tease and a player
  - ❑ A patron and supporter of Shakespeare’s work
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# Queen Elizabeth cont.

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- ❑ The Elizabethan Period is known as a golden period in English History
- ❑ England's ablest monarch since William the Conqueror
- ❑ Had a Renaissance education and read widely in Greek and Latin classics
- ❑ The word "Elizabethan" signifies the height of the English Renaissance



# Queen Elizabeth's Parents

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a  
Anne Boleyn



Henry VIII

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# Wives of Henry VIII



Image credits: tudorhistory.org

- ❑ Catherine of Aragon—  
Bloody Mary's  
mother—divorced
- ❑ Anne Boleyn—  
Elizabeth's mother—  
beheaded
- ❑ Jane Seymour—died
- ❑ Anne of Cleves—  
divorced
- ❑ Kathryn Howard—  
executed
- ❑ Katherine Parr—  
widowed

# The Renaissance

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- ❑ 1500-1650
  - ❑ "Rebirth" of arts, culture, science
  - ❑ Discovery of "New World"
  - ❑ King Henry VIII = renaissance man (ideal)
  - ❑ Reformation of Catholic Church
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# Well Known Shakespearean Phrases

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- ❑ A dish fit for the gods
  - ❑ A Fool's paradise
  - ❑ A plague on both your houses
  - ❑ A rose by any other name would smell as sweet
  - ❑ A sorry sight
  - ❑ All that glitters is not gold
  - ❑ All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players
  - ❑ All's well that ends well
  - ❑ As cold as any stone
  - ❑ As dead as a doornail
  - ❑ As good luck would have it
  - ❑ At one fell swoop
  - ❑ But, for my own part, it was Greek to me
  - ❑ Come what may
  - ❑ Double, double toil and trouble
  - ❑ Eaten out of house and home
  - ❑ Exceedingly well read
  - ❑ Fair play
  - ❑ For ever and a day
  - ❑ Green-eyed monster
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