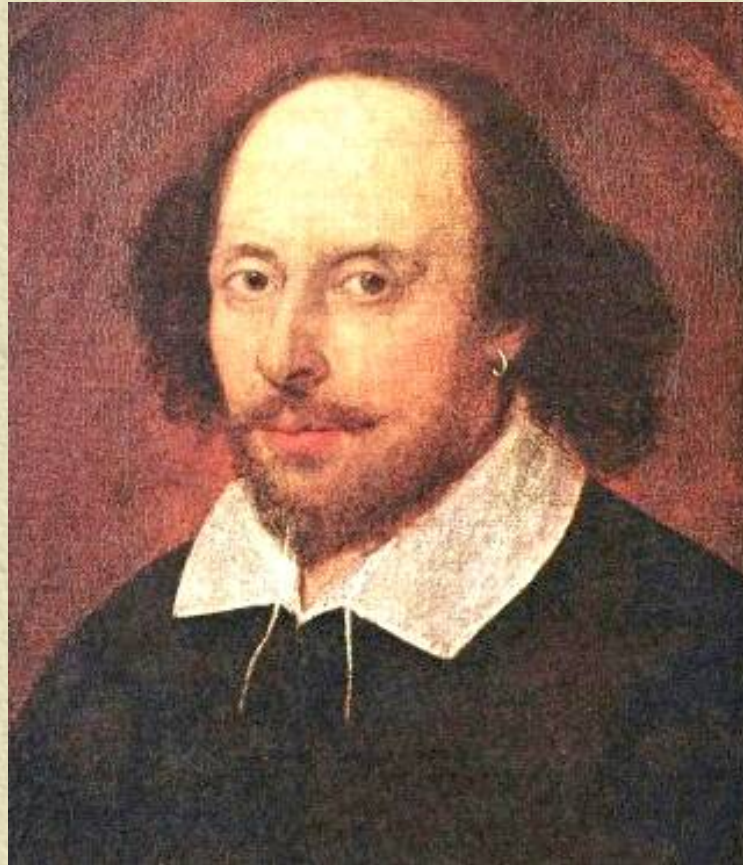



# *The Life of William Shakespeare*

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Shakespeare's name is  
known around the world.

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However, not much is known about  
him. Much of Shakespeare's life that  
we know about today has been pieced  
together through church and other  
records and what others have written  
about him.

# Early Life

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- ✦ Officially Shakespeare's birth date is unknown.
- ✦ The agreed upon date of his birth is April 23, 1564.
- ✦ This date is based on a baptismal record.

# Shakespeare's Hometown

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- ✦ He was born and raised in the town of Stratford on Avon.
- ✦ The town was built on the banks of the Avon River.
- ✦ Shakespeare lived in this house, most likely, until he moved to London.

# *Shakespeare's Parents*

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- ✦ Father: John
- ✦ He was a glove maker and a high bailiff.
- ✦ Mother: Mary
- ✦ John was 26 when he married 17 year old Mary.
- ✦ Mary was from a more upper class family than her husband John.
- ✦ Both parents were illiterate.





# Shakespeare's brothers and sisters

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Did you know he had 7  
brothers and sisters?

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# Older Sister- Joan

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- ✦ Born:1558
- ✦ Died:1558
- ✦ Age: 2 months
- ✦ Cause of Death:  
Bubonic Plague

# Older Sister- Margaret

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- ✦ Born: 1562
- ✦ Died: 1563
- ✦ Age: 6 mos.-1 year
- ✦ Cause of Death:  
Bubonic Plague



# Younger brother- Gilbert

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- ✦ Born: 1566
- ✦ Died: 1612
- ✦ Age: 46
- ✦ Cause of Death:  
Unknown



# Younger sister- Joan

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- ✦ Named after her older sister who died in 1558.
- ✦ Born: 1569
- ✦ Died: 1646
- ✦ Age: 77
- ✦ Cause of Death: Natural causes

# Younger sister- Anne

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- ✦ Born:1571
- ✦ Died:1579
- ✦ Age:8
- ✦ Cause of Death: Most likely the Bubonic Plague



# Younger brother- Richard

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- ✦ Born:1574
- ✦ Died:1613
- ✦ Age:39
- ✦ Cause of Death:  
Unknown

# Younger brother- Edmund

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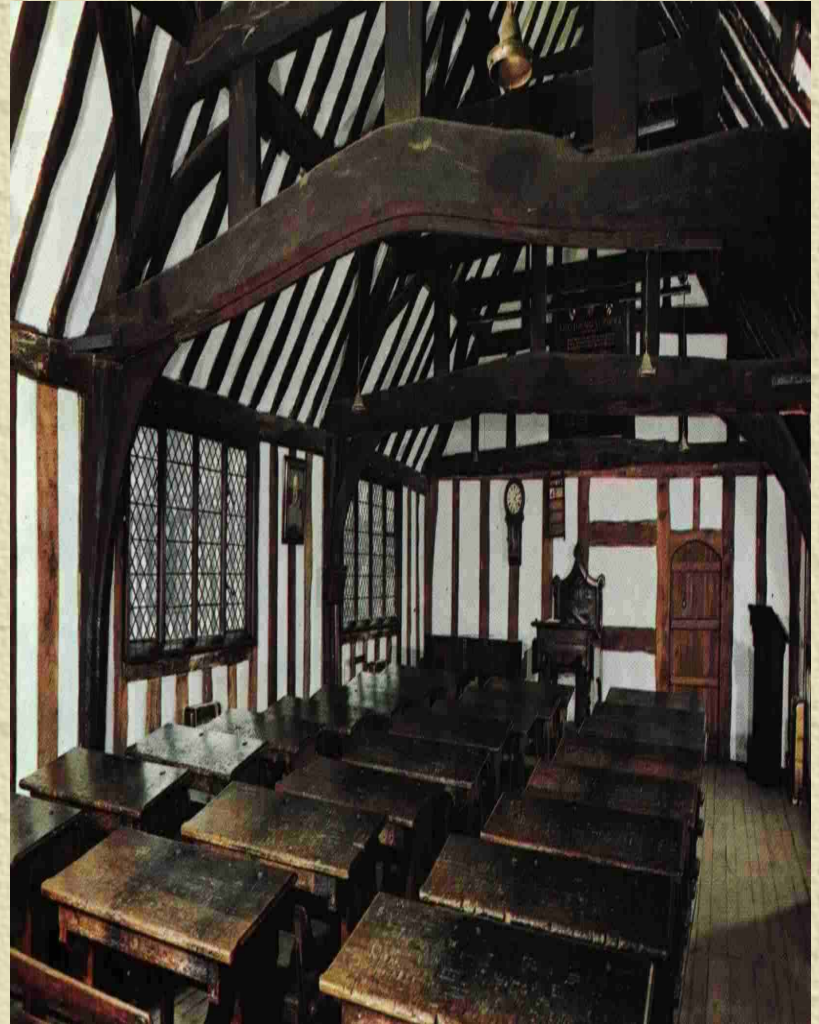
- ✦ Born:1581
- ✦ Died:1607
- ✦ Age:27
- ✦ Cause of death:  
Bubonic Plague



# *Shakespeare's Education*

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- ✦ Attended Stratford Grammar School.
- ✦ Average school day was from 6am to 5pm in the summer and 7am to 4pm in the winter.
- ✦ Started going to school around the age of 7.
- ✦ Left school when he was 14.
- ✦ He never went to university because there was no money to send him.



# *Shakespeare and Marriage*

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- ✦ At the age of 18 Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway.
- ✦ She was 26.
- ✦ They married in 1582.
- ✦ They most likely married because Anne became pregnant.
- ✦ They moved in with Shakespeare's financially struggling family after their marriage.
- ✦ He and Anne had 3 children.

# Susanna Shakespeare

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- ✦ Born: 1583
- ✦ Died: 1648
- ✦ Age: 61
- ✦ Married: Dr. John Hall
- ✦ Had 1 child: Elizabeth Barnard





# Judith Shakespeare

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- ✦ She was a twin.
- ✦ Born: 1585
- ✦ Died: 1662
- ✦ Age:
- ✦ Married: Thomas Quiney
- ✦ Had 3 children:
  - a) Shakespeare
  - b) Richard
  - c) Thomas

# Hamnet Shakespeare

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- ✦ He was a twin.
- ✦ Born: 1585
- ✦ Died: 1596
- ✦ Age: 11
- ✦ Cause of Death:  
Unknown



# *Shakespeare's not a family man...*

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- ✦ For much of their marriage, William lived in London, while Anne and the children lived in Stratford.
- ✦ Anne and the kids never lived with Shakespeare in London.
- ✦ This living arrangement went on for over 20 years.

# *The Acting Companies*

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- ✦ Most acting companies consisted of roughly 12 men.
- ✦ Women were not allowed to perform on stage.
- ✦ Women's roles were played by young boys whose voices had not changed yet.
- ✦ All acting companies were sponsored by a noble.
- ✦ This gave them protection from the Puritans.

# *Shakespeare as a writer*

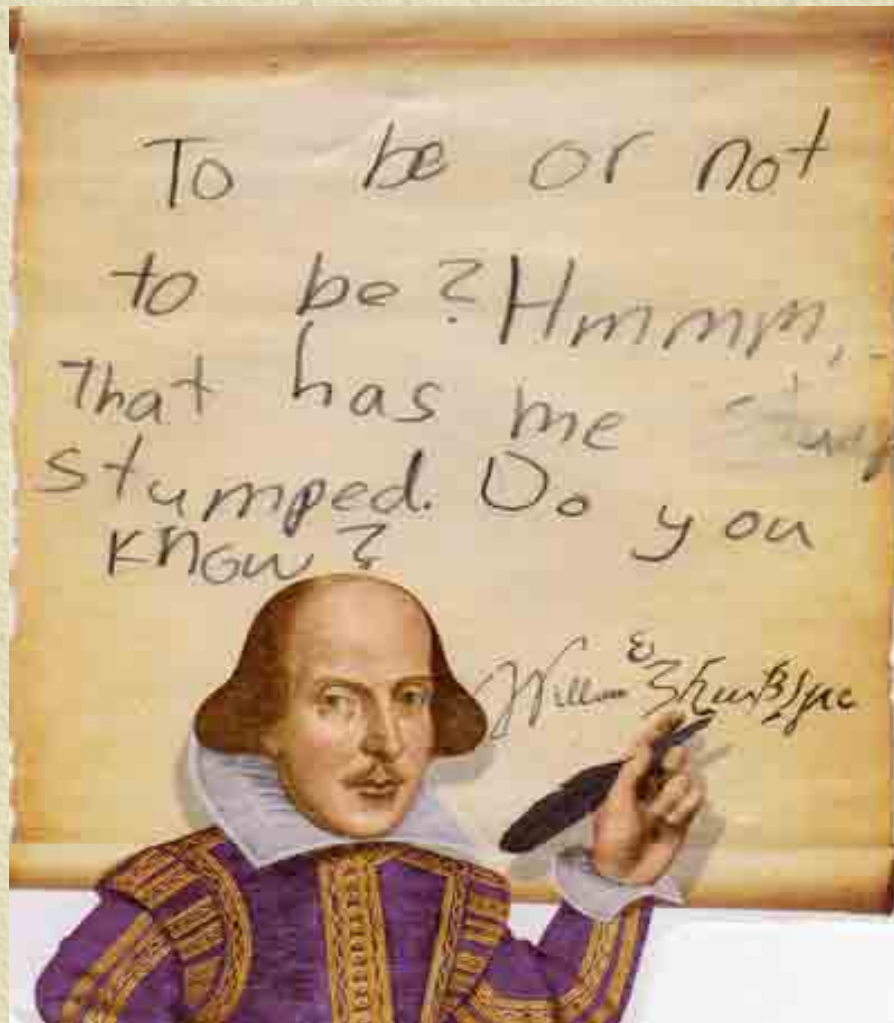
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- ✦ Shakespeare was a wordsmith.
- ✦ He is credited with inventing roughly 3000 words.
- ✦ He wrote 154 sonnets.
- ✦ He wrote 5 long poems:
  1. Venus and Adonis
  2. The Rape of Lucrece
  3. A Lover's Complaint
  4. The Passionate Pilgrim
  5. The Phoenix and the Turtle



# His Plays

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- ✦ He wrote 37 plays between, roughly, 1592 and 1611.
- ✦ His first play is thought to be Henry VI which was written around 1592.
- ✦ The last play is thought to be The tempest written around 1611.
- ✦ Storylines for his plays were seldom original. Many of his plays are based on other people's work.

# *Styles of Shakespearean Plays*

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- ✦ Comedies: often contain mistaken identity, women disguised as men, and ending with a wedding or one being planned.
- ✦ Tragedies: the main character as well as others are doomed to suffering or dying.
- ✦ Histories: told stories of kings and noblemen in war or rebellion.



# *Shakespeare's Play Causes Trouble*

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- ✦ In 1601, the Earl of Essex offered 40 shillings for a performance of *Richard II*. This play is about an unfit king forced to give up his throne.
  - ✦ With this performance Essex and the Earl of Southampton (who was friend and patron to Shakespeare) hoped to gain support to overthrow Elizabeth I. The plan failed.
  - ✦ Essex and many others were executed. Southampton was imprisoned in the Tower of London where he lived until 1603. Shortly after Elizabeth's death, he was released.
  - ✦ None of the acting company members were punished for their performance of this play.



# *Shakespeare Retires*

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- ✦ At about the age of 47 Shakespeare left London.
- ✦ He returned to Stratford to live with Anne in a grand home called New Place.
- ✦ From there he wrote his last plays.



# *Burning Down the House*

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- ✦ On July 29, 1613 during the first performance of *Henry VIII* a spark from cannon fire coming from the heavens caught the thatched roof on fire and The Globe burned to the ground.
- ✦ It would be rebuilt, but Shakespeare did not write any new play for the theatre.

# *Shakespeare's Will*

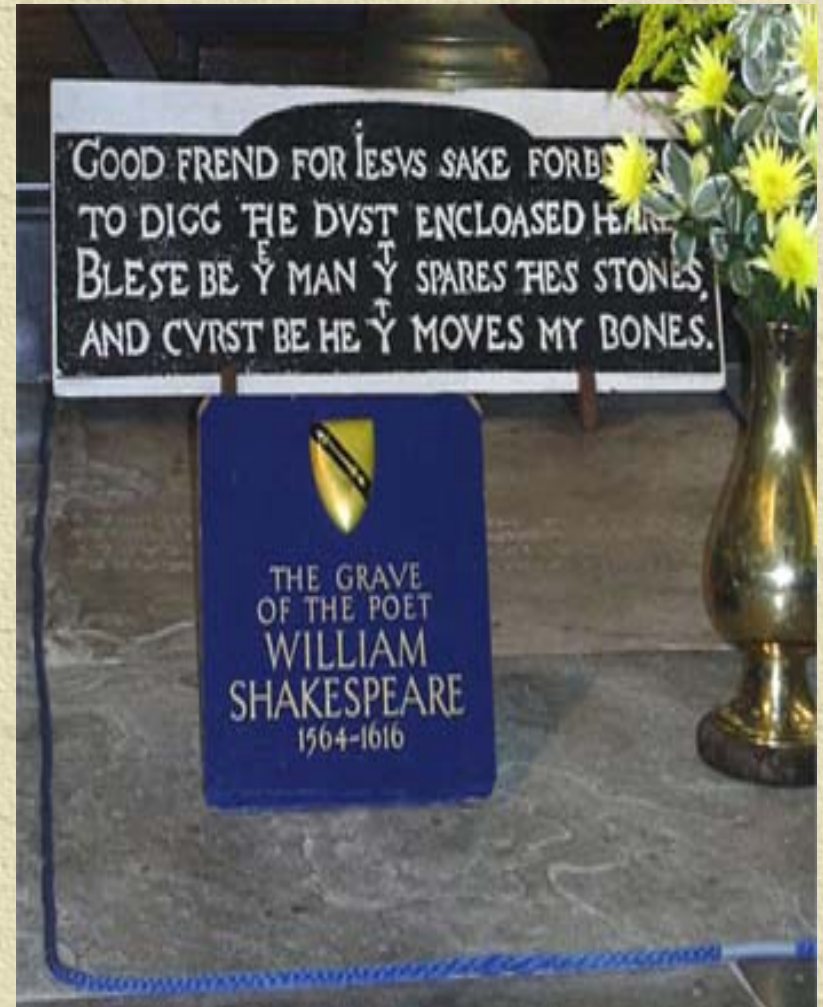
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- ✦ In 1614, Shakespeare wrote his will. In it he left:
  - a) money for the poor of Stratford
  - b) To his family he left his land, houses, and belongings.
  - c) To his wife he left his second best bed.

# *The Death of Shakespeare*

- ✦ On April 23, 1616 Shakespeare died at the age of 52.
- ✦ It is thought that he could have died on his birthday.
- ✦ He is buried at Holy Trinity Church in Stratford.
- ✦ Anne is buried next to him.

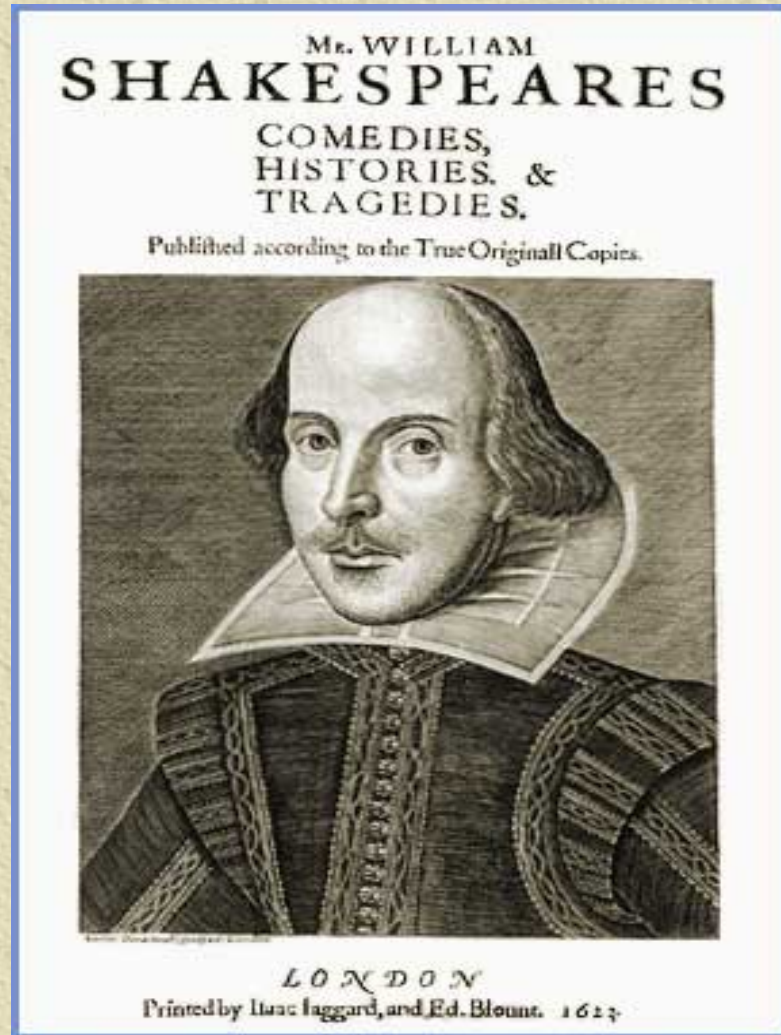


## *His Epitaph*

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- ✦ Good frend for Jesus sake forbear  
To digg the dust enclosed heare:  
Blese be the man who spares thes stones,  
And curst be he who moves my bones.
- ✦ It is thought that Shakespeare wrote his own epitaph.

# The Work Survives



- ✦ None of Shakespeare's original writing survives.
- ✦ In 1623, 7 years after his death, a folio of his plays was published containing 36 of his plays.
- ✦ A folio is a collection of works by an author.

# *Did other people write Shakespeare's plays?*

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- ✦ It is widely accepted that Shakespeare collaborated on some of his plays with other authors.
- ✦ Some scholars think that he did not write any of his plays due to his lack of education. They believe that others wrote the plays and convinced Shakespeare to pretend to be the author.
- ✦ They believe some of the authors could have been:
  - a) Sir Francis Bacon
  - b) Earl of Oxford
  - c) Queen Elizabeth I

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