

All About William Shakespeare



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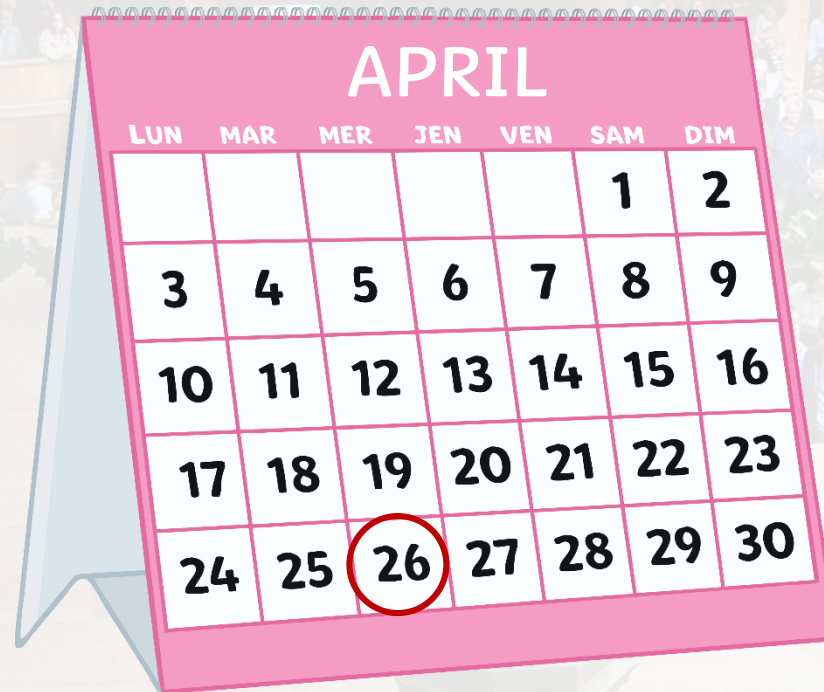
Who Was William Shakespeare?

William Shakespeare is thought to have been born on April 23rd 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, England.



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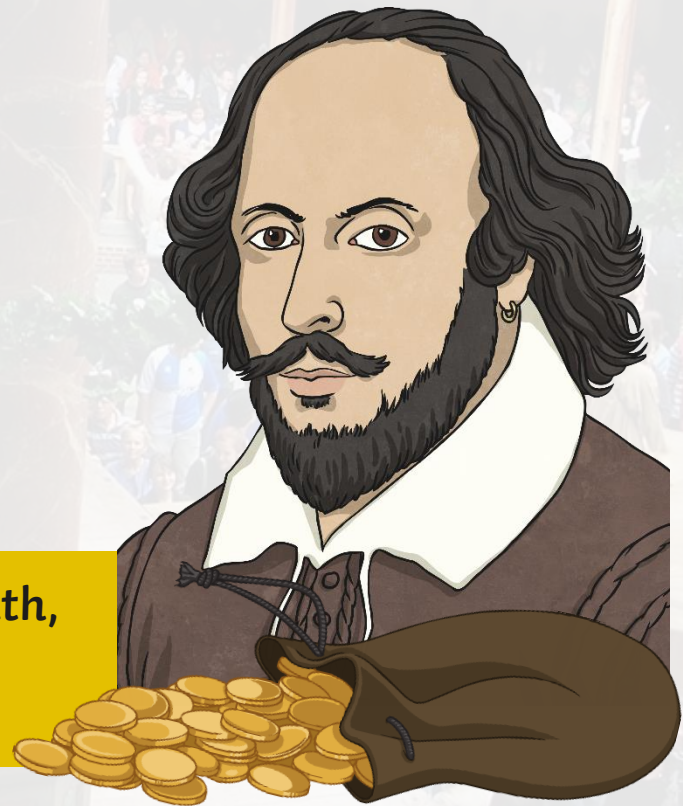
It is not known exactly when he was born, but he was baptised on April 26th, and at that time people were often baptised three days after their birth.



Family History

William was the third child of John and Mary Shakespeare. His father was a leather merchant and his mother was a 'local-landed heiress', which basically meant that she came from a wealthy family.

William had two older sisters, Joan and Judith, and three younger brothers called Gilbert, Richard and Edmund.



Early Life

Although there are no official records of where William was educated, it is thought he went to school at King's New School in Stratford.



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Early Life

His father, John Shakespeare, was a successful merchant and held official positions as an alderman and a bailiff, which was almost like being a mayor.



Anne Hathaway

On November 28th 1582, at the age of 18, William married Anne Hathaway. Anne was 26 years old when they got married.



They had a baby called Susanna in 1583. Two years later, Anne gave birth to twins - a boy called Hamnet and a girl called Judith. Sadly, at the age of 11, Hamnet died.

London

In the mid-1580s, it is thought William arrived in London. When he first arrived in the capital city, some historians believe that he worked as a horse attendant at some of London's theatres.

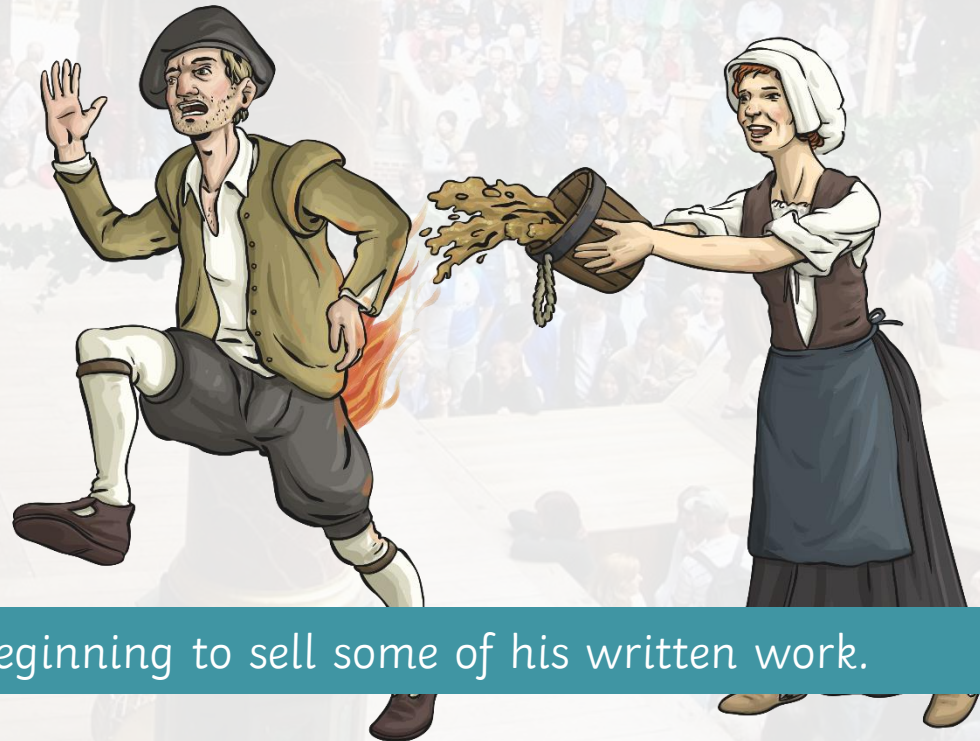
By 1592, he was earning money as an actor and a playwright.



The Lord Chamberlain's Men

The Lord Chamberlain's Men was an acting company that William became a managing partner of.

Their name was changed to The King's Men after King James I was crowned the new king of England.



By now, William was beginning to sell some of his written work.

Owner of Property

By 1597, Shakespeare was beginning to earn a lot of money so he bought the second largest house in his hometown of Stratford.

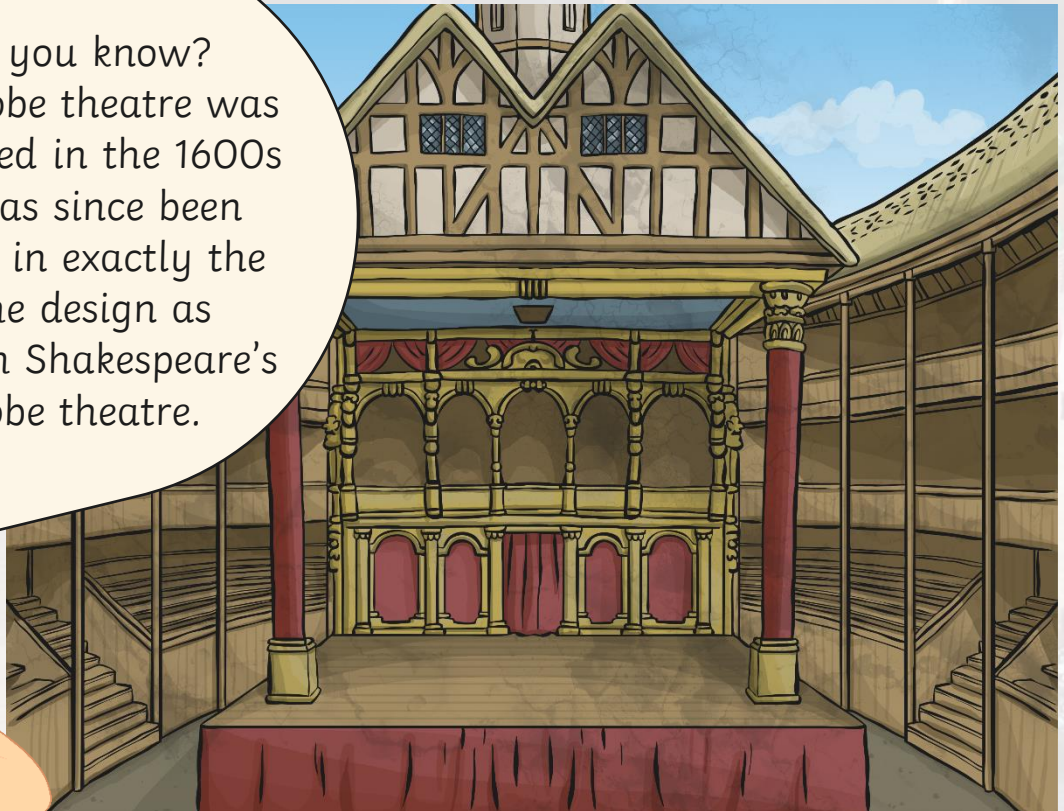


However, because it took about four days to get from London to Stratford by horse, William only ever went home during the forty days of Lent when the theatres were closed!

The Globe

William and his business partners decided to build their own theatre. They built The Globe by the River Thames in London

Did you know?
The Globe theatre was
destroyed in the 1600s
but has since been
rebuilt in exactly the
same design as
William Shakespeare's
Globe theatre.



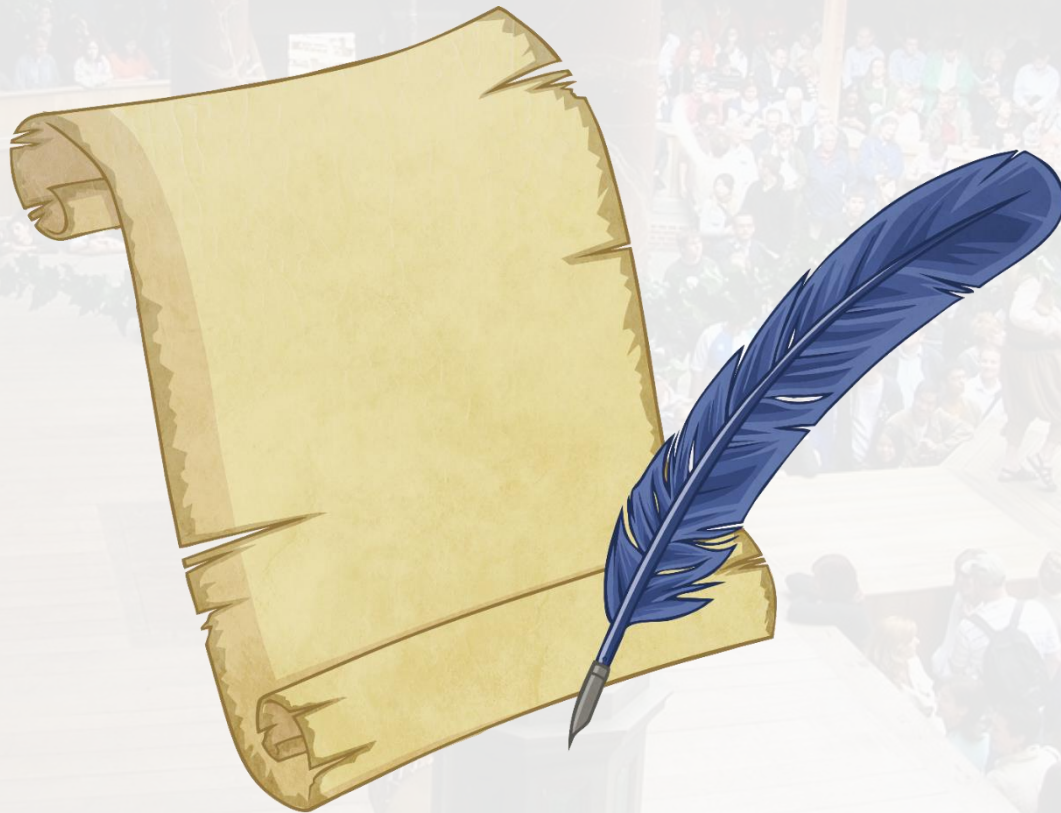
Landlord

He later went on to buy more houses in Stratford and rented them out, which earned him a massive £60 a year. This was a lot of money back in those days.



Shakespeare's Plays

Shakespeare wrote heartrending plays, called tragedies, and comedy plays. He acted in several of his plays in front of Queen Elizabeth I. He often included the themes of religion, love and the monarchy in his plays.



Shakespeare's Legacy

Because of Shakespeare, we have over three hundred words and well-known phrases in the English language, which he invented.

Did you know?
Shakespeare's
work has been
translated into
80 languages!



Words

barefaced
fair-play
watchdog
bedazzled
well-read
lacklustre

Shakespeare's Legacy

Click the paper to find out

Sayings

eaten me out of house and home

seen better days

pound of flesh

tower of strength

wild goose chase

not slept one wink

dead as a doornail

a sorry sight

a laughing stock

good riddance

Sonnets

Shakespeare also had 154 sonnets published. You may have heard of this part of one?



A sonnet is a poem with 14 lines. Often, Shakespeare's sonnets were about love, death and loss.

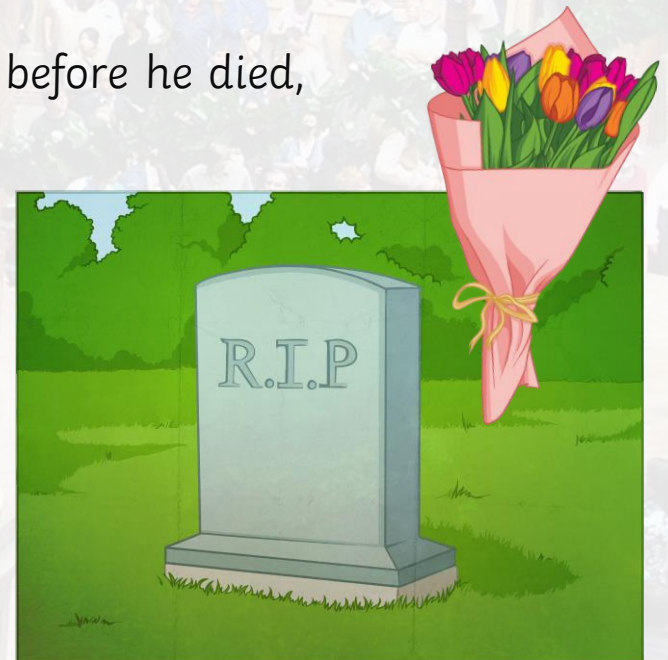
All's Well That Ends Well

William Shakespeare died on April 23rd 1616, which was the same day as his birthday, at the age of 52.

Although it is not recorded what he died from, some years later, a vicar reported that he died of a fever he contracted after a night out 'merry making'.

Shakespeare had written his will a few months before he died, and famously left his wife his 'second best bed' and then most of his belongings to his daughter, Susanna.

He is buried in the Holy Trinity churchyard in Stratford.





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