



William Shakespeare

The Bard (Poet) of Avon

Curtain Call

For the remainder of your high school career and possibly some of college, you will be reading the works of William Shakespeare. To maximize your understanding, you must first learn the facts:

- Life
- Renaissance
- Works
- Techniques/Language
- Theatre



I. Life

A. Birth

1. Stratford-upon-Avon (90 NW of London)
2. 1564
3. Parents- John and Mary Shakespeare
4. Shakespeare's Genealogy

Sources:

<http://www.onlineshakespeare.com/>

<http://www.stratford-upon-avon.co.uk/soamapm.htm>

<http://shakespeare.palomar.edu/timeline/genealogy.htm>

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I. Life

B. Death

1. 1616

2. 52 years old

3. Possibly on his birthday



GOOD FREND FOR JESUS SAKE
FORBEARE,
TO DIGG THE DUST ENCLOASED HEARE.
BLESTE BE YE MAN Y^t SPARES THES
STONES,
AND CURST BE HE Y^t MOVES MY BONES.

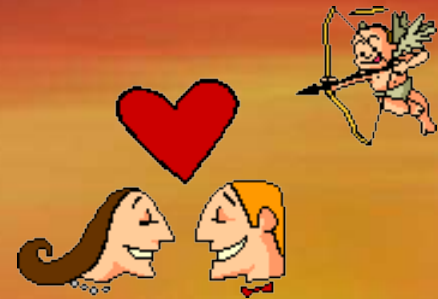
Photo Source:

http://www.poetsgraves.co.uk/images/stratgrave_images_JPG.jpg

I. Life

C. Family

1. Married at age 18
2. Wife: Anne Hathaway age 26
3. 3 children
4. Abandoned family



Sources:

<http://www.onlineshakespeare.com/>

<http://absoluteshakespeare.com/index.htm>



II. Renaissance

A. 14th Century

1. Italy, then England
2. Renewed interest in science, commerce, philosophy, and the arts
3. Emphasis on individual freedom of choice



Sources: shakespeare.palomar.edu/renaissance.htm

http://content.answers.com/main/content/wp/en/thumb/f/fa/200px-Jousting_Knights.jpg

II. Renaissance

B. Elizabethan Age (1558-1603)

1. Renaissance peaked
2. Last of the Tudors
3. Unmarried Queen-Elizabeth I
4. She was a patron of Shakespeare



Sources: http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/walk/timestrip/liz_will.shtml

www.marileecody.com/eliz1-images.html

III. Works

A. Plays

1. 37 total
2. Comedies
3. Tragedies
4. Histories
5. Problem Plays



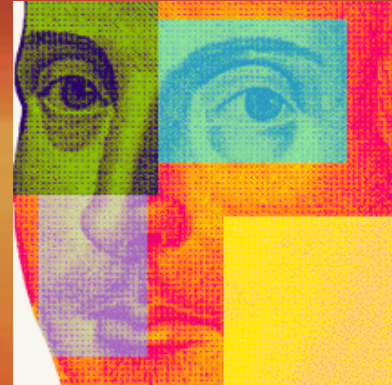
Source: <http://www.depauw.edu/pa/news/images/theatre-masks.jpg>

III. Works

Work	Written	Published		Work	Written	Published		Work	Written
<i>The Comedy of Errors</i>	1589-1594	1623		<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i>	1597	1602		<i>The Tempest</i>	1610
<i>The Two Gentlemen of Verona</i>	1589-1593	1623		<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	1598	1600		<i>The Two Noble</i>	1611
<i>King John</i>	1590-1595	1623		<i>As You Like It</i>	1599	1623		<i>Cardenio</i>	1612
<i>Henry VI, Part 1</i>	1590-1592	1623		<i>Julius Caesar</i>	1599	1623		<i>Henry VIII</i>	1613
<i>Henry VI, Part 2</i>	1591	1594		<i>Henry V</i>	1599	1600			
<i>Henry VI, Part 3</i>	1592	1595		<i>Hamlet</i>	1600	1603			
<i>Venus and Adonis</i>	1593	1593		<i>Troilus and Cressida</i>	1600-1603	1609			
<i>Richard III</i>	1593	1597		<i>Twelfth Night</i>	1601	1623			
<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>	1593-1594	1623		<i>All's Well That Ends Well</i>	1601-1602	1623			
<i>Titus Andronicus</i>	1593-1594	1594		<i>Othello</i>	1602-1603	1622			
<i>The Rape of Lucrece</i>	1594	1594		<i>Measure for Measure</i>	1603	1623			
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	1594	1597		<i>Timon of Athens</i>	1604-1606	1623			
<i>Love's Labours Lost</i>	1594	1598		<i>King Lear</i>	1605	1608			
<i>The Sonnets</i>	1594	1609		<i>Macbeth</i>	1606	1623			
<i>Richard II</i>	1595	1597		<i>Pericles</i>	1606-1607	1609			
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	1595	1600		<i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>	1607-1608	1623			
<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	1596	1600		<i>Coriolanus</i>	1608	1623			
<i>Henry IV, Part 1</i>	1596	1598		<i>Cymbeline</i>	1609	1623			
<i>Henry IV, Part 2</i>	1597	1600		<i>The Winter's Tale</i>	1609	1623			

Source: <http://www.bardweb.net/plays/timeline.html>

III. Works



B. Sonnets

1. 154 total
2. Dark Lady, Young Man, Old Man
3. Numbered
4. 3 quatrains (4 lines) and a rhymed couplet (2 lines)
5. iambic pentameter- 10 syllables; unstressed-stressed pattern
6. Rhyme scheme: ABABCDCDEFEFGG

IV. Techniques/Language...

A. Blank Verse

1. Unrhymed
2. Iambic pentameter

B. Soliloquy- one person speaking

1. One character on stage
2. Only the audience hears

C. Aside- one person speaking

1. Several characters on stage
2. Only the audience or one character hears

IV. Techniques/Language

D. Allusion- reference to an outside person, place, thing or idea

E. Comic Relief-humor to relieve emotional intensity



IV. Techniques/Language

F. Pun- play on words

1. “You have dancing shoes/with nimble soles; I have a soul of lead/So stakes me to the ground I cannot move.” (RJ: I.iv.15-16)



G. New words/phrases

1. “Dead as a doornail”
2. “Laughing-stock”
3. “It’s all Greek to me”

V. Theatre

A. The Globe

1. Built in 1599
2. Bank of River Thames
3. Structure
 - a. 3 story
 - b. Wooden frame
 - c. Open courtyard
 - d. Raised platform stage



V. Theatre

B. Other theatres

1. The Theatre

2. The Rose



V. Theatre

C. Attendants

1. Rich

a. Sat in seats

b. Enjoyed the flowery verse



V. Theatre

2. Poor

a. Sat on ground

b. Enjoyed puns, crude humor, and prose

c. Groundlings; penny stinkers



V. Theatre

D. Facts

1. Actors

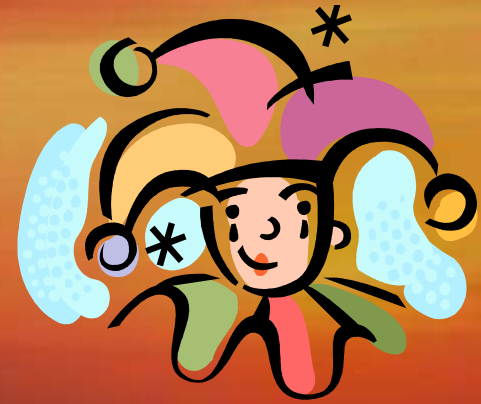
- a. All males
- b. Young men played women
- c. Wandering nomads



V. Theatre

2. Scenery/Costume

- a. No curtains or lighting
- b. Little scenery
- c. Had props and sound effects
- d. Elegant costumes



Grand Finale

Drama can be divided into three main categories: (1)____, (2)____, and (3)____. Shakespeare's plays fall into those three categories, but some plays are referred to as (4)____ because they do not fit comfortably into any of the aforementioned classifications. Combining all of these types of plays, Shakespeare wrote a total of (5)____ (#) plays. He is also famous for his sonnet, of which he wrote (6)____ (#).

In addition to his works, William Shakespeare's life was also interesting. At the age of eighteen, he married Anne Hathaway, who was his nine years his senior. They had three children. He later abandoned the family and devoted his time to his work. He spent much time at the (7)____ Theatre, for this was the primary location of his plays. The rich people sat in the seats while the poor people, known as (8)____, sat on the ground. They enjoyed the crude humor and plays on words called (9)____. The theatre as a whole was not well respected in this time period; however the monarch, (10)____, was a patron of Shakespeare.

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