



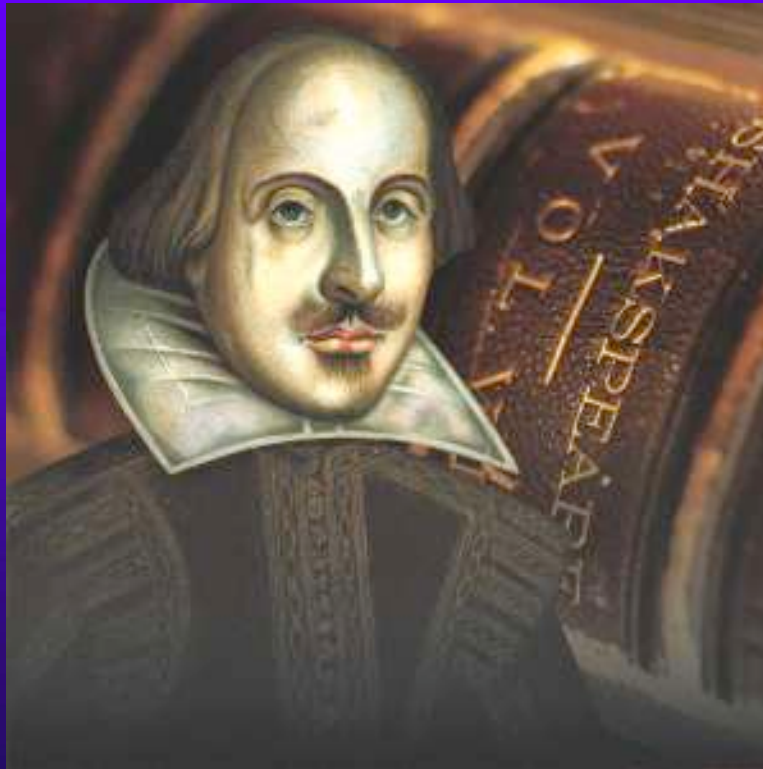
# Shakespeare

## His Poetry & Poetic Conventions



# What do we know about Shakespeare

- ◆ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uouEH9Iw1AA&feature=related>





# Shakespeare' Verse (types of poetry)

- ◆ Meter is a rhythmic flow to the lines
- ◆ Mostly uses Blank Verse, a form of poetry that does not rhyme, but maintains a meter
- ◆ Free Verse (which Shakespeare does not use) is a form of poetry that neither rhymes nor maintains a meter.



# Poetic Meter in Shakespeare's Plays

- ◆ Most of Shakespeare's dialogue has a specific metric pattern
- ◆ The metric pattern that Shakespeare used most frequently was **Iambic Pentameter**.



# There are some rhymes in the plays

- ◆ Some songs that are sung in the play rhyme
- ◆ Some characters will occasionally recite rhyming poetry that is supposedly written by someone else.
- ◆ Occasionally, the last two lines spoken in a scene will rhyme, these are known as couplets.



Till then sit still, my soul: Foul deeds will rise,  
Though all the earth o'erwhelm them, to men's eyes.

Act I, Scene 3 Lines 275-276





# Soliloquies

- ◆ On a live stage, it was difficult to show a characters internal thoughts (Interior Monologue).
- ◆ The Elizabethans used Soliliquies as means of delivering believable interior monologues.
- ◆ Soliloquies occur when a character is alone on the stage and their speech is revealing the honest thoughts and beliefs of the character. Those thoughts may be mistaken, but they are the true thoughts of the character



To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,  
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day  
To the last syllable of recorded time,  
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools  
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!  
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player  
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage  
And then is heard no more: it is a tale  
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,  
Signifying nothing.