



William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1564. He was baptised on the 26th April and his birthday is celebrated on the 23rd April, St. George's Day. His parents were called John and Mary, and they had eight children: four boys and four girls. William was the eldest of the boys. When William was 18, he married Anne Hathaway. They had three children: a daughter called Susanna and then twins, Judith and Hamnet. William died in 1616, also on 23rd April. He was 52.

Famous Quotes

"To be or not to be,
that is the question."
- Hamlet

"Romeo, Romeo,
Wherefore art thou
Romeo?" - Romeo
and Juliet

"Is this a dagger
which I see before
me," - Macbeth

Shakespeare is also
believed to have
invented many
phrases we still use
today:

- wild goose chase
- heart of gold
- good riddance
- a sorry sight
- lie low

The Plays

No one knows for definite as it was so long ago, but it is believed that Shakespeare wrote at least 37 plays. Some of these are very well-known, such as Romeo and Juliet, and Hamlet. Others are less famous.

His plays are usually split up into three types: comedies, histories and tragedies. Some are performed as they would have been in Shakespeare's time while others are done very differently, like The Lion King!

Shakespeare also wrote poems called sonnets - 154 of them!

Tudor Entertainment

Life in Tudor times (1485-1603) was very different to how it is today. With no technology, people relied on theatre to entertain them.

Groups of actors would travel to cities to perform. It is believed that seeing a travelling group of actors is what inspired William to move to London to become a writer and an actor himself!

Thousands of people are believed to have visited theatres every day, sometimes even royalty!

The Globe Theatre

The theatre that is mostly associated with Shakespeare is called the Globe, in London. It has a very interesting history and most of Shakespeare's plays were performed here by his theatre group, the Lord Chamberlain's Men. All parts were played by men and there was often a lot of audience participation!



The Globe Theatre in London today.