

William Shakespeare



One of the most well-known English writers is William Shakespeare. He lived in the 16th and 17th Century and many of his plays are still performed today.

William Shakespeare was born at his home in Stratford Upon Avon. We do not know his exact birth date but it is usually said to be 23rd April 1564 because we know that he was baptised on 26th April 1564. He was the third child of John Shakespeare and Mary Arden. His father was a leather merchant and his mother's family owned land nearby. We do not know exactly where or if he went to school but it is likely that he went to the King's New School in Stratford to learn reading, writing and the classics.

On 28th November 1582, William married Anne Hathaway. William was just 18 years old at the time. They had a daughter and later they had twins. After this, little is known about the next seven years of Shakespeare's life. These are called the 'lost years'.

By 1592, William Shakespeare was living in London and working as an actor and playwright. By 1597, 15 of his 37 plays had been published.

Many people believe that William died on his birthday, 23rd April 1616 but we don't know this for certain.



William Shakespeare Questions



1. Where and when was William Shakespeare born?
2. Who were his parents and what did they do for a living?
3. What is known about his schooling?
4. What have been called the lost years? What do you think that Shakespeare might have been doing in this time?
5. What did Shakespeare do in London?
6. What mysteries surround the life of Shakespeare? What do you think about these uncertainties?

Please answer the questions in your yellow 'Home learning' books, make sure that you are answering in full sentences and that ALL of your basic punctuation is correct.