



William Shakespeare

Shakespeare



William Shakespeare was born in [redacted] in Stratford-upon-Avon, in [redacted]. His father, John, was a [redacted]. His mother, Mary, was a farmer's [redacted]. He had two older sisters, two [redacted] sisters and three younger [redacted].

William probably studied Latin, Greek and [redacted] and left school when he was 14 or 15. Three years later he [redacted] Anne Hathaway. They had a daughter called Susanna and twins named [redacted] and Hamnet. Sometime before 1590 he [redacted] Stratford and went to [redacted] the capital city of England.

London's first [redacted] opened in 1576. Shakespeare worked in London as an actor and then started writing [redacted] too. In 1593 the plague, a terrible [redacted] killed thousands of [redacted] and theatres were [redacted]. During this time William started to write [redacted] instead of plays. His short [redacted] are called sonnets.

Shakespeare helped build a new [redacted] called The Globe. It opened in [redacted]. It was round and had space for [redacted] people. At The Globe some people [redacted] in front of the stage and others had [redacted]. The audience shouted, clapped, booed and [redacted] while they watched plays. Musicians created special [redacted] to make the plays more [redacted] and they had a cannon to make big bangs! No [redacted] acted in Shakespeare's time: men and [redacted] played all the parts.

Shakespeare [redacted] comedies with [redacted] endings, like A Midsummer Night's Dream. He wrote [redacted] which had [redacted] endings, like Romeo and Juliet. His history plays are about kings and [redacted] like Henry V. Shakespeare wrote 38 plays, maybe more. He loved [redacted] and invented new [redacted] and expressions that we still use today.

William became [redacted] and [redacted]. He had houses in London and in Stratford. He [redacted] when he was 52 on 23 April [redacted]. His plays and [redacted] were very popular 400 years ago and they are still popular today. People all over the world [redacted] his work because he wrote [redacted] stories about very [redacted] people.

Listen to this story <http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/short-stories/william-shakespeare>