

UNIT 4 Temptation and Loss

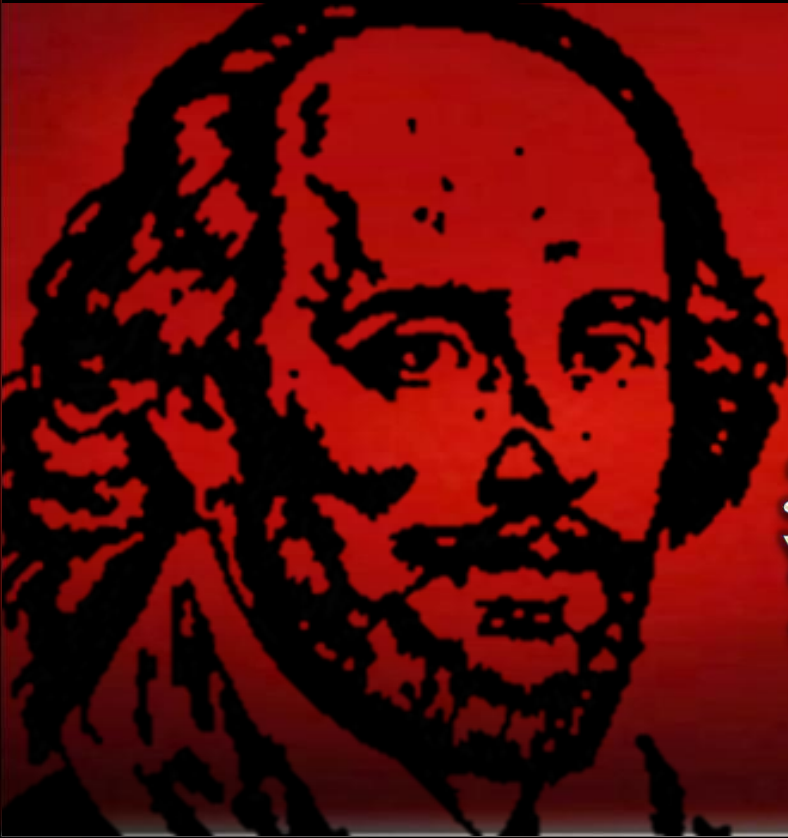
Drama Connections

A STEM school

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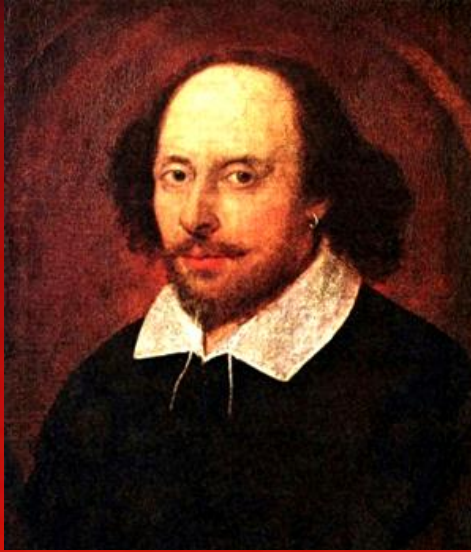


with Jim Soto



Shakespeare

The Bard of Stratford



Though William Shakespeare is recognized as one of literature's greatest influences, little is actually known about him. What we do know about his life comes from registrar records, court records, wills, marriage certificates and his tombstone.

Anecdotes and criticisms by his rivals also speak of the famous playwright and suggest that he was indeed a playwright, poet and an actor. He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon" (or simply "the Bard").



Early Life



We don't actually know his birthday but from his baptismal register we assume he was born in 1564.

William was the third child of John and Mary Shakespeare. Of William's seven siblings, only one sister and four of his brothers survived to adulthood.

Education

We know that the King's New Grammar School taught boys basic reading and writing. We assume William attended this school since it existed to educate the sons of Stratford but we have no definite proof. Likewise, a lack of evidence suggests that William, whose works are studied universally at universities, never attended one himself!

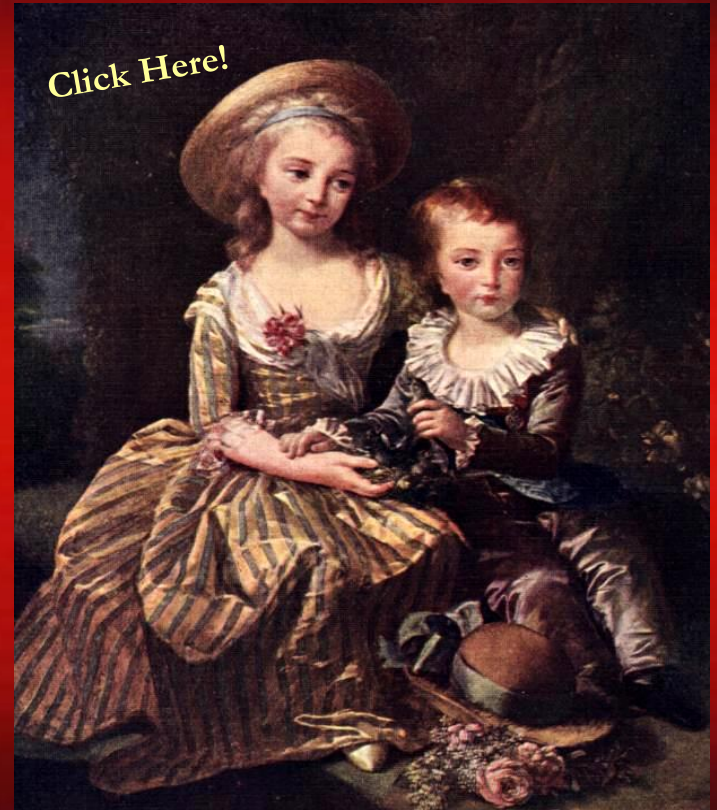


William marries



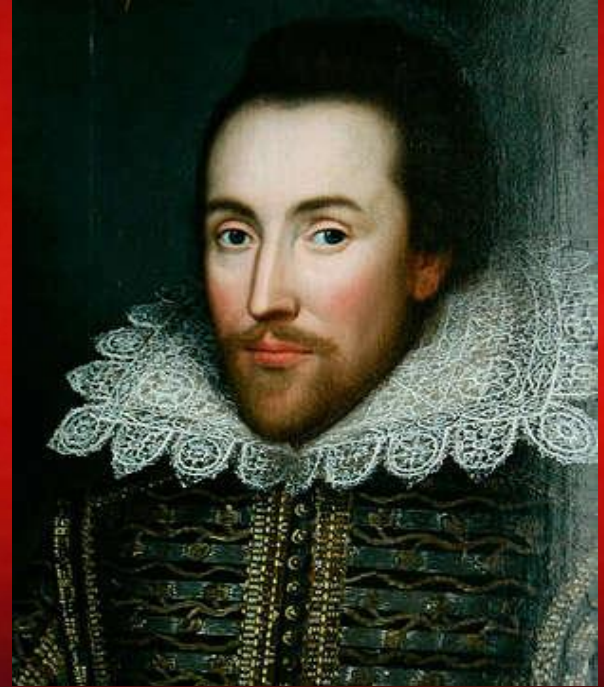
A bond certificate dated November the 28th, 1582, reveals that an 18 year old William married the 26 year old and pregnant Anne Hathaway. Seven months later, they had their first daughter, Susanna. Anne never left Stratford, living there her entire life.

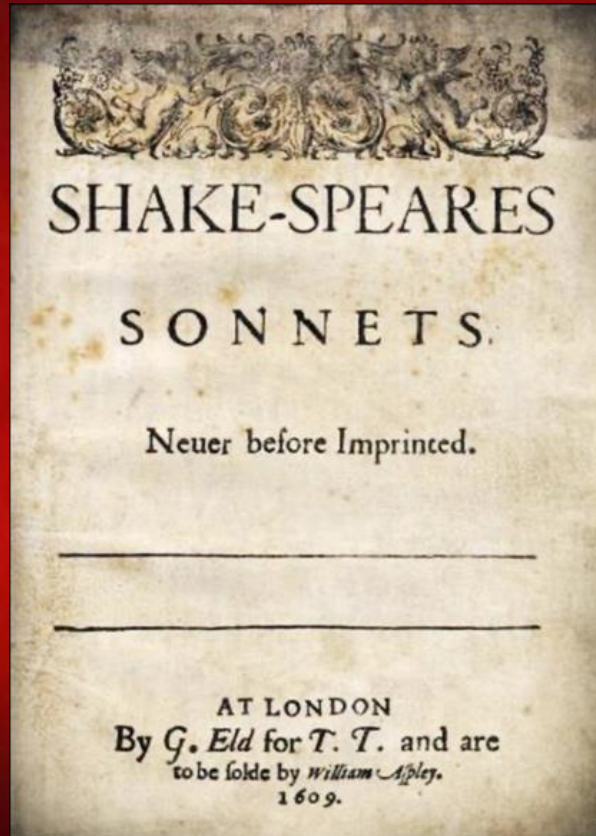
William fathered three children: Susanna, Hamnet, and Judith. Hamnet, William's only son died when just 11 years old. William's family was small in a time when families on the other hand had many children to ensure parents were cared for at old age despite the very high mortality rates of children and also their life expectancy in the 1500s.



William, the poet

Evidence that the great Bard was also a poet comes from his entering his first poem *Venus and Adonis* in the Stationers' Registrar in 1593. The playwright registered his second poem *The Rape of Lucrece* by name in 1594.





In 1609, the Bard's sonnets were published without his permission. It is considered unlikely that William wanted his deeply personal poems to be revealed to the outside world. It was not however the first time; in 1599, in a collection entitled "*The Passionate Pilgrim*" , two of his poems had been printed without William's permission.

Career over Family

Working in London, just 4 days ride way from Stratford, William is believed to have left his family back home for some 20 years while he pursued his craft. He only returned back to his family in 1609, having visited during the 40 day period of Lent when theatres would close in accordance with the traditional ban on all forms of entertainment during this important Easter event.



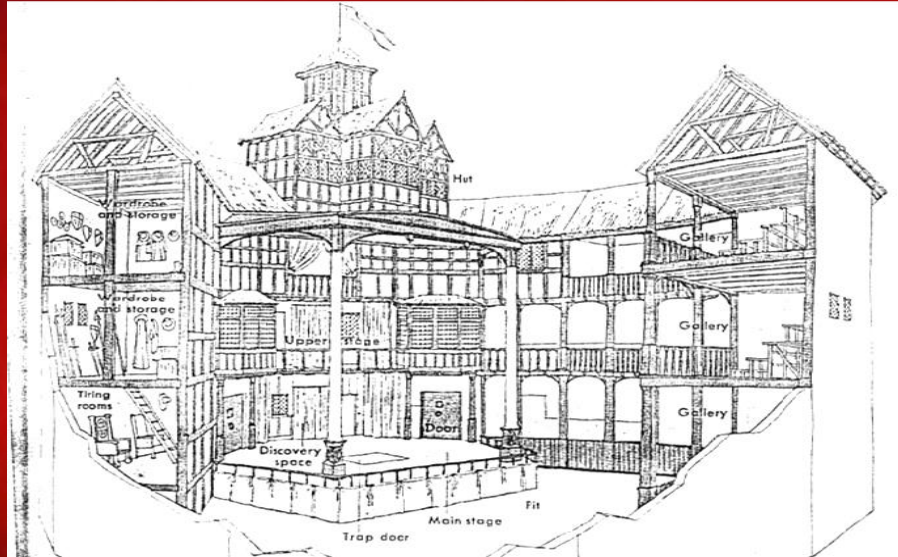
Shakespeare's Theatre

The Globe Theatre, also known as the Shakespeare Globe Theatre, one of the most famous playhouses of all time, was also where many of his greatest plays were performed. Built from oak, deal, and stolen playhouse frames, the 3 story, 3000 capacity theatre, co-owned by William Shakespeare has become almost as famous as the Bard himself.



Views of the Globe Theatre





Open to all for the low price of one-penny (roughly 10 % of a worker's daily wage), you could stand in the playhouse's central yard. Without an overhead roof, such a view was exposed, but with the stage set some 5 feet off the ground, you got the closest view in the house. For a little more (two pennies), you could pay to sit in one of the three circular galleries.



Unlike today's spectacles, a Globe playhouse-goer had to use their imagination; there were no backdrops, no lighting to speak of, horrific acoustics, and few props. Watching a play would involve watching the actors exaggerating their movements for patrons in the galleries and shouting their lines to be heard by all. Microphones still didn't exist.



Much of the illusion of a play had to occur in the viewer's own imagination, the only exceptions, being the colorful use of costumes, heralds, banners, and the dramatic use of the balcony's and arras. Because there was no artificial lighting, plays typically occurred in the afternoon, lasting from 2 pm until 4 or 5 pm.

Some of Shakespeare's Works



Comedies

Love's Labour's Lost
The Merchant of Venice
As You Like It
Much Ado About Nothing
The Taming of the Shrew
The Tempest

Tragedies

Julius Caesar
Macbeth
Hamlet
King Lear
Othello
Antony and Cleopatra

Poems

Shakespeare's Sonnets
Venus and Adonis
The Rape of Lucrece

Histories

Henry V
Henry VI, part 1
Henry VI, part 2
Henry VI, part 3
Richard III
Henry VIII

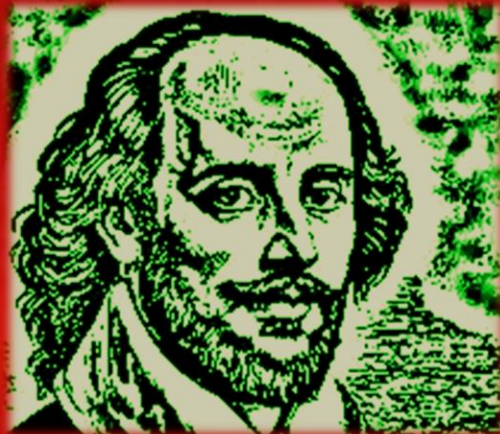
Assessment

1. Where do we get most of the facts known about William Shakespeare?
2. What are five known facts about Shakespeare's family life?
3. List three facts regarding the Globe Theatre.
4. Why did the performers at the Globe shout their lines?
5. Why did the performances at the Globe last from 2 pm until 4 or 5 pm.?



*All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players*

William Shakespeare



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