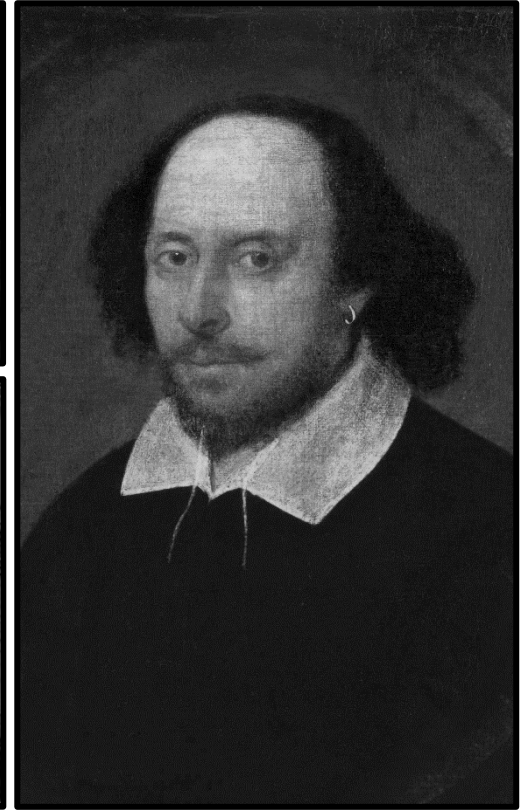


Shakespeare's World

UNDERSTANDING SHAKESPEARE'S TIME, THEATRE AND VILLAINS



Dramatic Terminology

TERMINOLOGY	DEFINITION
act	
scene	
character	
stage directions	
soliloquy	
foreshadowing	
antagonist	
protagonist	

William Shakespeare

When you take information from the internet you should do something with it rather than just read it. Using information from the Wikipedia page for Shakespeare, create a fact file below about Shakespeare's life. Fill in key details and decide what to do in the space underneath.

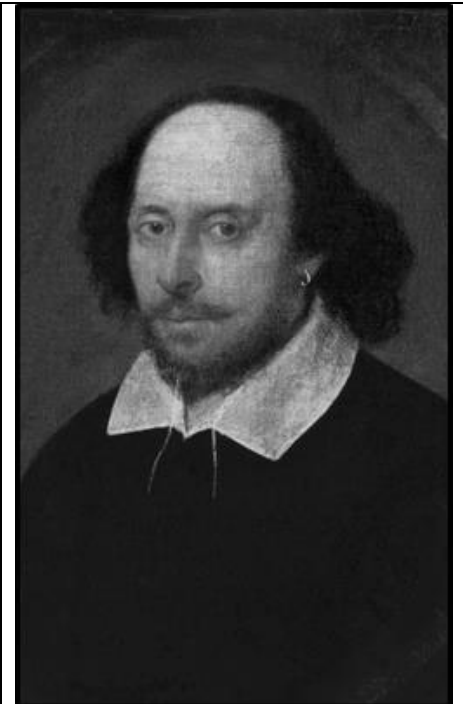
William Shakespeare (26 April 1564 (baptised) - 23 April 1616) was an English poet, playwright and actor, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon". His works, including collaborations, consist of approximately 39 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems and a few other verses, some of uncertain authorship. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright.

Shakespeare was born and brought up in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. He was the son of John Shakespeare, an alderman and a successful glover, and Mary Arden, the daughter of an affluent landowning farmer. He was born in Stratford-upon-Avon and baptised there on 26 April 1564. His actual date of birth remains unknown, but is traditionally observed on 23 April, Saint George's Day. This date, which can be traced back to an 18th-century scholar's mistake, has proved appealing to biographers because Shakespeare died on 23 April 1616. He was the third child of eight and the eldest surviving son.

At the age of 18, he married Anne Hathaway, with whom he had three children: Susanna and twins Judith and Hamnet (who died age 11). Sometime between 1585 and 1592, he began a successful career in London as an actor, writer, and part-owner of a playing company called the Lord Chamberlain's Men, later known as the King's Men. At age 49 around 1613, he appears to have retired to Stratford, where he died three years later. Few records of Shakespeare's private life survive, which has stimulated considerable speculation about such matters as his physical appearance, sexuality, religious beliefs and whether the works attributed to him were written by others. These speculations are often criticized for failing to point out the fact that few records survive of most commoners of his period.

Shakespeare Fact File

Full Name:	William Shakespeare



Shakespeare's Works

Shakespeare's works include 38 plays, 154 sonnets, and 2 epic narrative poems. Shakespeare produced most of his known work between 1589 and 1613. His early plays were primarily comedies and histories, which are regarded as some of the best work ever produced in these genres. He then wrote mainly tragedies until about 1608. The First Folio (cover shown at left) was published posthumously in 1623 by two of Shakespeare's acting companions, John Heminges and Henry Condell. Ever since then, the works of Shakespeare have been studied, analysed, and enjoyed as some of the finest masterpieces of the English language.

Below you have a list of features of Shakespeare's plays and a list of the plays. You need to decide whether these are features of a comedy, history or tragedy play, and add them to the box. Then using only the title and what you know of them, decide which play goes where!

- Always ends in death
- Family tensions are resolved in the end
- Focuses on an English King
- Characters become isolated
- Often a struggle of young lovers to overcome problems
- Usually ends in marriage
- Often has a central figure who is noble but has a flaw which leads to their downfall
- Tries to portray the monarchy in a positive light
- There is a sense that events are inevitable or inescapable
- The play tends to have a complex interwoven plot
- Includes mistaken identities or disguises
- Tries to be accurate but sometimes twists the past'

Hamlet
The Tempest
Macbeth
Henry V
Othello
Richard III
King John

The Comedy of Errors
Romeo and Juliet
Twelfth Night
Much Ado About Nothing
Henry VIII

Comedies

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-
-
-
-

Examples:

Tragedies

-
-
-
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Examples:

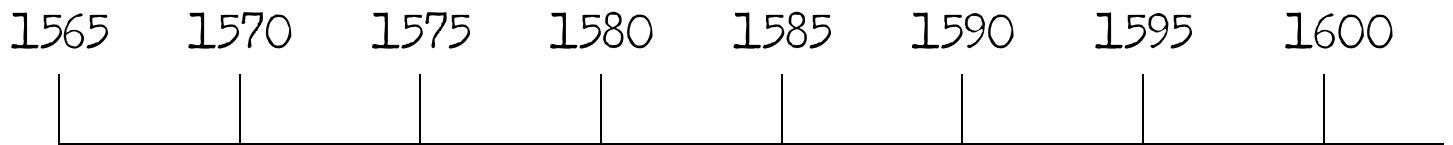
Histories

-
-
-

Examples:

Elizabethan England

Historical Events



Shakespeare's Timeline

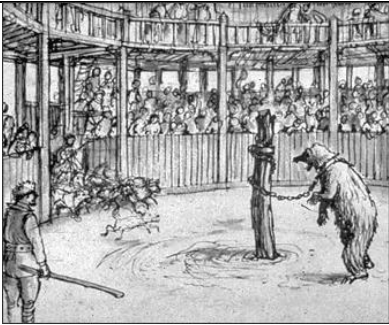
Jacobean England

1605 1610 1615 1620 1625 1630 1635



Elizabethan Entertainment

. Elizabethan Entertainment was extremely important to people who lived in the Elizabethan era. The lives of Elizabethans were hard, the mortality rate was high due to frequent outbreaks of the Plague and life expectancy was low. Elizabethan entertainment was popular whenever there was something to celebrate such as a wedding, or festival. Court entertainment was regular, often a nightly occurrence combined with feasts, jousts and banquets often accompanied by music and dancing. But the poor people enjoyed entertainment from acting troupes, tournaments or dancing. The most popular public entertainment were the four activities below. Notice how they are gruesome and violent - this is what Shakespeare had to contend with! When you are given information about these types of entertainment, fill in the boxes.



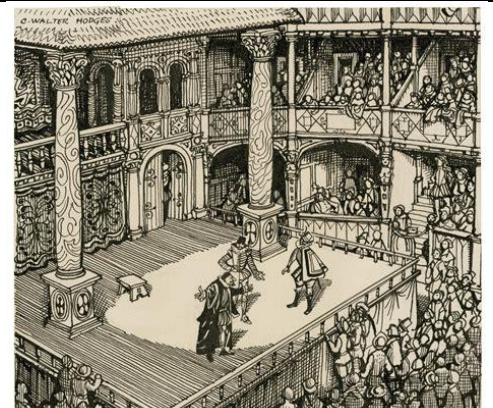
Bear baiting

Bull Baiting



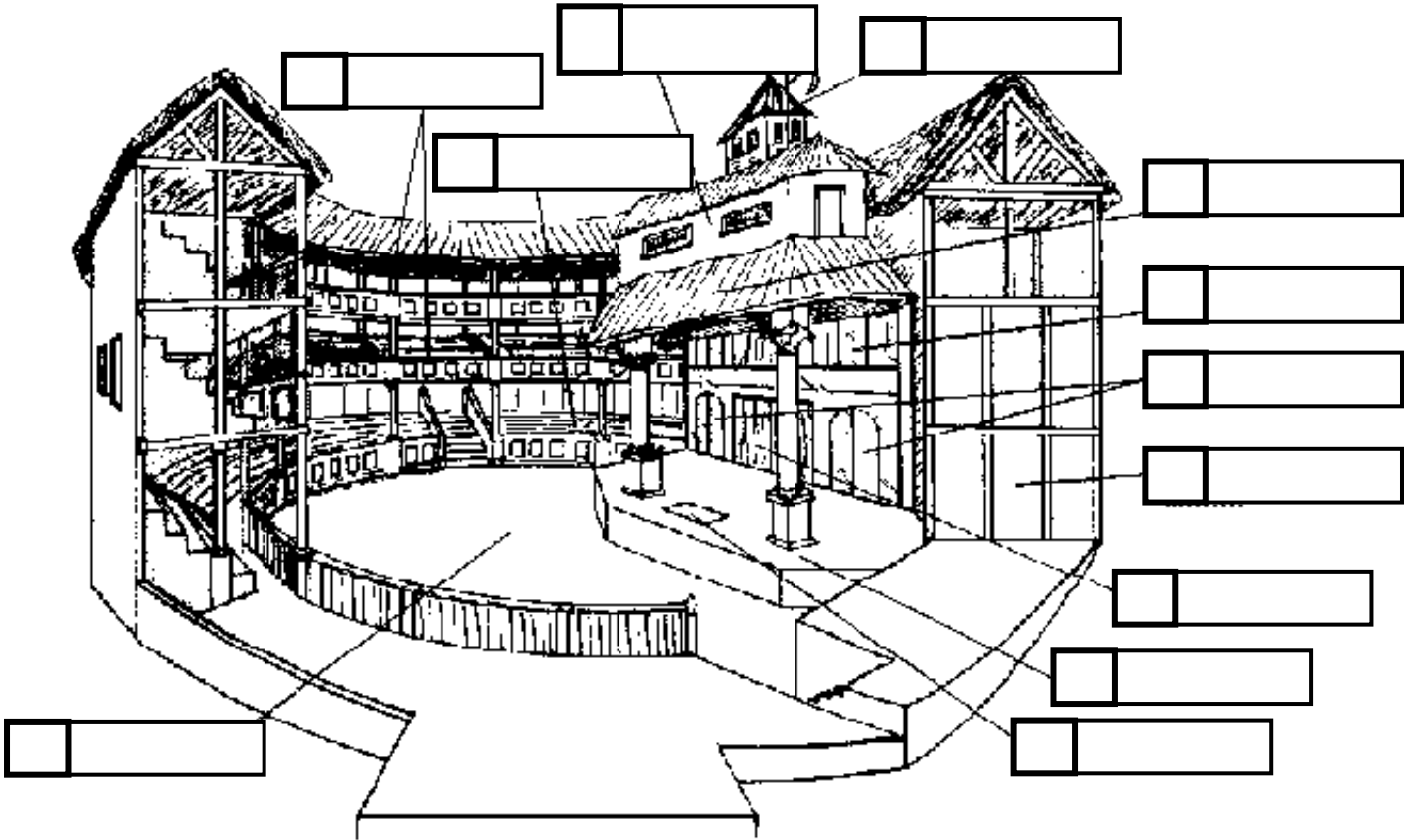
Cock fighting

Theatre



The Globe Theatre

Below you have a list of places within the Globe. Decide which word goes in the box and then write the relevant number as a guess in the small box. Then, when you go through the answers, write the correct term in the bigger box.



1. yard or pit	4. trapdoor	7. main stage	10. tiring house
2. inner stage	5. doors	8. musicians	11. upper stage
3. galleries	6. tower	9. orchestra	12. the shadow

Using the words on the left, complete the gap fill on the right which gives you important information about the Globe theatre.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> fire <input type="checkbox"/> closed <input type="checkbox"/> 3000 <input type="checkbox"/> evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Lord <input type="checkbox"/> 1997 <input type="checkbox"/> London <input type="checkbox"/> 1599 <input type="checkbox"/> design <input type="checkbox"/> open-air 	<p>The Globe Theatre was a theatre in _____ associated with William Shakespeare. It was built in _____ by Shakespeare's playing company, the _____ Chamberlain's Men, but was destroyed by _____ on 29 June 1613. A second Globe Theatre was built on the same site by June 1614 and _____ in 1642. The evidence suggests that it was a three-storey, _____ amphitheatre approximately 100 feet (30 m) in diameter that could house up to _____ spectators.</p> <p>A modern reconstruction of the Globe, named "Shakespeare's Globe", opened in _____ approximately 750 feet (230 m) from the site of the original theatre. It is much like the original _____, based on available _____ of the 1599 and 1614 buildings.</p>
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Understanding a Script

ACT AND SCENE – Clarifies where in the play this part of the script is from.

SCENE LOCATION – Gives the reader the place the scene is set.

ACT I SCENE I *A desert place.*
[Thunder and lightning. Enter three Witches]
 First Witch When shall we three meet again
 In thunder, lightning, or in rain?
 Second Witch When the hurlyburly's done,
 When the battle's lost and won.
 Third Witch That will be ere the set of sun. 5
 First Witch Where the place?
 Second Witch Upon the heath.
 Third Witch There to meet with Macbeth.
 First Witch I come, graymalkin!
 Second Witch Paddock calls. 10
 Third Witch Anon!
 ALL Fair is foul, and foul is fair:
 Hover through the fog and filthy air.

STAGE DIRECTIONS – There are a range of stage directions (see page 9). The most common at the start of a scene are which characters should enter.

LINES OF THE PLAY – The key part we analyse in a play. The words the actors speak on stage, sometimes with stage directions to the actor to instruct them exactly how to say the line.

LINE NUMBER – Every line is given a line number to aid the actor/director/reader. So this line would be 1.1.10 - act 1, scene 1, line 10.

CHARACTER – This indicates who speaks each line, with ALL indicating all characters.

In the space below create your own script of a conversation you have had today. It should include all of the features above - maybe even some stage directions!

Stage Directions

Shakespeare does not use very detailed stage directions in his plays. Modern plays often provide extensive staging details, but Shakespeare's directions are concerned with giving the actors key information: when to arrive, when to leave, where to stand on the stage, when music or sounds should be made and information on place or weather.

For each of the common stage directions below, decide which definition matches and write the number next to the term. Do this in pencil until you have the correct answer!

Alarum		1. Words an actor speaks to the audience which other actors on the stage cannot hear.
Aside		2. Trumpet flourish to introduce the entrance of a character, such as a king.
Enter		3. Indicates that a person speaking or being spoken to is somewhere offstage.
Epilogue		4. Music usually introducing the entrance or exit of a king or another important person.
Excursion		5. Indicates the entrance on to the stage of a character or characters
Exeunt		6. Indication of the coming of a battle - a bugle call to arms
Exit		7. Indicates that the characters entering are playing hautboys, which are Elizabethan oboes.
Flourish		8. Introduction of a play where someone comes on and tells the audience something important about the play.
Hautboys		9. Last words after the conclusion of a play.
Prologue		10. Indication that a military attack is taking place.
Sennet		11. Indicates that entering characters are carrying lit torches
Torches		12. Indicates the departure of a character from the stage.
Within		13. Indicates the departure of two or more characters from the stage.

Can you explain the following stage directions in your own words?

<i>Alarum. Enter KING RICHARD III and RICHMOND; they fight. KING RICHARD III is slain. Retreat and flourish. Re-enter RICHMOND, DERBY, bearing the crown.</i>	<i>Sennet. Exeunt EPILOGUE Enter Chorus</i>	<i>Hautboys and torches. Enter DUNCAN, MALCOLM, DONALBAIN, BANQUO, LENNOX, MACDUFF, ROSS, ANGUS, and Attendants</i>
↓	↓	↓

Villain 1: Don John

Don John is a character from one of Shakespeare's comedies, 'Much Ado About Nothing'. Comedies don't normally have villains, but Don John is an antagonist and causes most of the problems in the play - such as convincing one character the woman he is about to marry is having an affair!

The first time he speaks in the play he says, "I thank you: I am not of many words" - and he doesn't say much else! This is an extract from act 1 scene 3, where he speaks to his sidekick Conrad. He is explaining that he is feeling sad, and then goes on to state that he is a "plain-dealing villain". He is very honest about the type of person he is, and soon makes a plan to cause trouble in the play. He is an interesting character - but is he a true villain?

DON JOHN

I cannot hide
what I am: I must be sad when I have cause and smile
at no man's jests, eat when I have stomach and wait
for no man's leisure, sleep when I am drowsy and
tend on no man's business, laugh when I am merry and
claw no man in his humour.

CONRADE

Yea, but you must not make the full show of this
till you may do it without controlment. You have of
late stood out against your brother, and he hath
ta'en you newly into his grace; where it is
impossible you should take true root but by the
fair weather that you make yourself: it is needful
that you frame the season for your own harvest.

DON JOHN

I had rather be a canker in a hedge than a rose in
his grace, and it better fits my blood to be
disdained of all than to fashion a carriage to rob
love from any: in this, though I cannot be said to
be a flattering honest man, it must not be denied
but I am a plain-dealing villain. I am trusted with
a muzzel and enfranchised with a clog; therefore I
have decreed not to sing in my cage. If I had my
mouth, I would bite; if I had my liberty, I would do
my liking: in the meantime let me be that I am and
seek not to alter me.

[At this point Borachio, Don John's other friend, enters
with news. Don John's first reaction is "Will it serve
for any model to build mischief on?" the information is
explained to him, and he then responds as below.]

DON JOHN

Come, come, let us thither: this may prove food to
my displeasure. That young start-up hath all the
glory of my overthrow: if I can cross him any way, I
bless myself every way. You are both sure, and will
assist me?

Questions

1. Summarise the first speech Don John makes. List all the things he says he will do when he needs to. Does this make him a bad character?
2. He would "rather be a canker in a hedge than a rose" what does this tell us about him?
3. He feels like he is restricted - what shows this?
4. He thinks he has found "food to my displeasure" - what imagery is being used here?

New Vocabulary

canker: a plant disease
disdained: rejected, ignored

Villain 2: Iago

Iago is a character from a tragedy, 'Othello', and therefore has a very different role to Don John. He is an important character in the play, and his motives and intentions are introduced in the first scene, before we even meet Othello. As the play goes on, Iago spends his time manipulating everyone around him on his path of destruction. No-one knows he is a villain; he comes across as an honest and good friend, and a clever man who is a heroic soldier.

Throughout the play there are a series of deaths; they are not all carried out by Iago, but he causes all of them. First, Iago kills Roderigo. Then, Othello kills his own wife after Iago has manipulated him into thinking she is having an affair. Iago then kills Emilia, his own wife, when she tries to tell the other characters about Iago's evil plans. Othello realises what Iago has done and stabs him then kills himself. Iago survives the play but is arrested to be punished. In this extract from act I scene I Iago explains his evil intentions towards Othello, who has not given him a promotion in the army they serve in.

Shakespeare's Version	Modern Version
<p>RODERIGO I would not follow him then.</p> <p>IAGO O, sir, content you; I follow him to serve my turn upon him: We cannot all be masters, nor all masters Cannot be truly follow'd. You shall mark Many a duteous and knee-crooking knave, That, doting on his own obsequious bondage, Wears out his time, much like his master's ass, For nought but provender, and when he's old, cashier'd: Whip me such honest knaves. Others there are Who, trimm'd in forms and visages of duty, Keep yet their hearts attending on themselves, And, throwing but shows of service on their lords, Do well thrive by them and when they have lined their coats Do themselves homage: these fellows have some soul; And such a one do I profess myself. For, sir, It is as sure as you are Roderigo, Were I the Moor, I would not be Iago: In following him, I follow but myself; Heaven is my judge, not I for love and duty, But seeming so, for my peculiar end: For when my outward action doth demonstrate The native act and figure of my heart In compliment extern, 'tis not long after But I will wear my heart upon my sleeve For daws to peck at: I am not what I am.</p>	<p>RODERIGO If you don't like him you should quit.</p> <p>IAGO No, calm down. I'm serving under him to take advantage of him. We can't all be masters, and not all masters should be followed. Look at all the devoted servants who work for their masters their whole lives for nothing but their food, and then when they get old they're terminated. They ought to be whipped for being so stupid. But then there's another kind of servant who looks dutiful and devoted, but who's really looking out for himself. By pretending to serve their lords, these men get rich, and when they've saved up enough they can be their own masters. Guys like that have soul, and that's the kind of guy I am. Let me tell you, as sure as your name's Roderigo, if I were the Moor I wouldn't want to be Iago. I may seem to love and obey him, but in fact, I'm just serving him to get what I want. If my outward appearance started reflecting what I really felt, soon enough I'd be wearing my heart on my sleeve for birds to peck at. No, it's better to hide it. I'm not who I appear to be.</p>

Questions

1. Does Iago come across as honest like Don John? Explain your response.
2. Iago compares servants to donkeys. Find the quotation and explain it.
3. He believes loyal servants should be whipped - what does this suggest?
4. Why does Iago say it is important to hide his true intentions?
5. Is Iago convincing here? Does he come across as intelligent and logical?

Common Words

Use this space to record definitions of the words Shakespeare regularly uses.

Word	Translation	Word	Translation