

# William Shakespeare

## William's Family

William Shakespeare is thought to have been born on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. William was the eldest son of John and Mary Shakespeare.



## Fascinating Facts



- William married Anne Hathaway at the age of 18.
- They had a daughter called Susanna in 1583.
- Anne gave birth to twins two years later. The boy was called Hamnet and the girl was called Judith. Sadly, Hamnet died when he was 11 years old.
- William moved to London where he earned money as an actor and a **playwright**.



## William's Plays

William Shakespeare wrote many **tragedies**, **histories** and **comedies**. These plays included feelings and experiences that lots of people could understand. He often wrote about jealousy, anger, love, romance, religion and war.

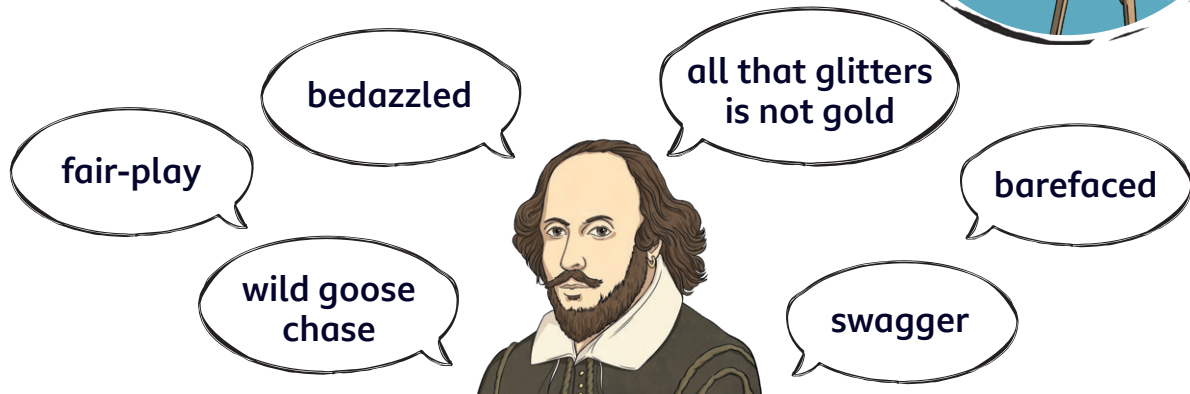
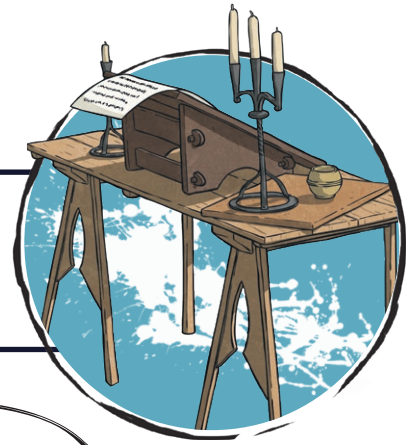
## Did You Know... ?

Many of his most famous plays have been turned into cartoons and films. For example, 'Romeo and Juliet' was made into a cartoon about two garden gnomes!



## William's Words

William Shakespeare made up over three hundred words and well-known phrases in the English language. Here are some:



William Shakespeare died on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1616. This was the same day as what is believed to have been his 52<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

## Did You Know... ?

Shakespeare's Birthday Celebrations take place each year around 23<sup>rd</sup> April. The streets of Stratford-upon-Avon are filled with music, song and performances in celebration of the life of William Shakespeare.

## Glossary

**comedies:** A type of entertainment that is supposed to make people laugh.

**histories:** Plays that use historical events as inspiration but may not be factually correct.

**playwright:** A person who writes plays. Plays are stories that can be acted out on a stage for people to watch.

**tragedies:** Very sad plays that usually have an unhappy ending.

1. What was the name of William Shakespeare's wife? Tick one.

- ☐ Judith
- ☐ Anne
- ☐ Mary
- ☐ Susannah

2. Draw three lines and complete each sentence.

William Shakespeare  
is thought to have  
been born on...

1583.

William Shakespeare  
died on...

23<sup>rd</sup> April 1616.

William and Anne  
had a daughter  
called Susanna in...

23<sup>rd</sup> April 1564.

3. Which themes did William write about? Tick two.

- ☐ making money
- ☐ jealousy
- ☐ shopping
- ☐ love

4. Which of these is the title of one of William's plays? Tick one.

- ☐ 'Beauty and the Beast'
- ☐ 'Romeo and Juliet'
- ☐ 'The Haunted House'
- ☐ 'A Christmas Carol'

5. Find and copy one word or phrase which shows that lots of people will have heard of the words that William made up.

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6. Fill in the missing words.

Shakespeare's \_\_\_\_\_ Celebrations take place each year  
around 23<sup>rd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

7. Why do you think that William Shakespeare wrote about feelings and experiences that lots of people could relate to?

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**well-known**

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7. Why do you think that William Shakespeare wrote about feelings and experiences that lots of people could relate to?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that William Shakespeare did this because he thought that it would encourage lots of people to watch his plays and they might understand the feelings of the characters.**