

# William Shakespeare (1564-1616)



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William Shakespeare is the greatest of all playwrights and poets of all times. 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. He was the third child of eight and the eldest surviving son. He probably attended the local grammar school and got a classical education.



At the age of 18, Shakespeare married the 26-year-old Anne Hathaway and six months after the marriage Anne gave birth to a daughter, Susanna, baptised 26 May 1583. Twins, son Hamnet and daughter Judith, followed almost two years later and were baptised 2 February 1585. Hamnet died of unknown causes at the age of 11 and was buried 11 August 1596.

*Anne Hathaway*

□ Shakespeare divided his time between London and Stratford during his career. In 1596, the year before he bought New Place as his family home in Stratford, Shakespeare was living in the parish of St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, north of the River Thames. He moved across the river to Southwark by 1599, the year his company constructed the Globe Theatre there. By 1604, he had moved north of the river again, to an area north of St Paul's Cathedral with many fine houses. There he rented rooms from a French Huguenot named Christopher Mountjoy, a maker of ladies' wigs and other headgear.



Shakespeare died in 1616 in his native town when he was 52 years old. Shakespeare was buried in the chancel of the Holy Trinity Church two days after his death.[69] The epitaph carved into the stone slab covering his grave includes a curse against moving his bones, which was carefully avoided during restoration of the church in 2008.

Shakespeare's grave:

*Good frend for Iesvs sake forbeare,  
To digg the dust enclosed heare.*

*Bleste be ye man yt spares thes  
stones,*

*And cvrst be he yt moves my bones*

# Works



## Comedies

- Main article: Shakespearean comedy
- All's Well That Ends Well
- As You Like It
- The Comedy of Errors
- Love's Labour's Lost
- Measure for Measure
- The Merchant of Venice
- The Merry Wives of Windsor
- A Midsummer Night's Dream
- Much Ado About Nothing
- Pericles, Prince of Tyre
- The Taming of the Shrew
- The Tempest
- Twelfth Night
- The Two Gentlemen of Verona
- The Two Noble Kinsmen
- The Winter's Tale

## Histories

- Main article: Shakespearean history
- King John
- Richard II
- Henry IV, Part 1
- Henry IV, Part 2
- Henry V
- Henry VI, Part 1
- Henry VI, Part 2
- Henry VI, Part 3
- Richard III
- Henry VIII

## Tragedies

- Main article: Shakespearean tragedy
- Romeo and Juliet
- Coriolanus
- Titus Andronicus
- Timon of Athens
- Julius Caesar
- Macbeth
- Hamlet
- Troilus and Cressida
- King Lear
- Othello
- Antony and Cleopatra
- Cymbeline

## Poems

- Shakespeare's sonnets
- Venus and Adonis
- The Rape of Lucrece
- The Passionate Pilgrim
- The Phoenix and the Turtle
- A Lover's Complaint

## Apocrypha

- Main article: Shakespeare Apocrypha
- Arden of Faversham
- The Birth of Merlin
- Edward III
- Locrine
- The London Prodigal
- The Puritan
- The Second Maiden's Tragedy
- Sir John Oldcastle
- Thomas Lord Cromwell
- A Yorkshire Tragedy
- Sir Thomas More

## Lost plays

- Love's Labour's Won
- The History of Cardenio