

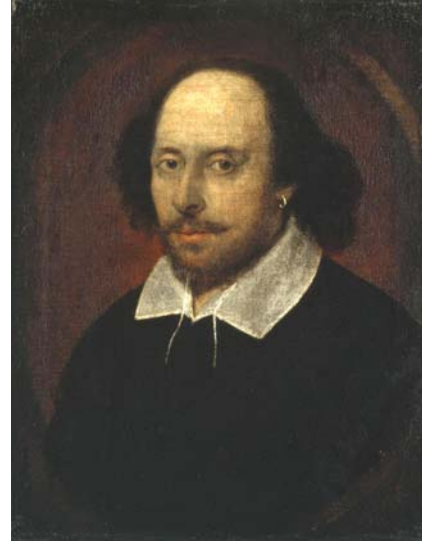
William Shakespeare Resource Mini E-Book:

Introduction:

William Shakespeare (1564-1616) is universally acknowledged as one of England's finest poets and playwright being the author of some 38 plays, 154 sonnets and a number of poems.

William Shakespeare was born and grew up in Stratford upon Avon in the midlands of the UK. William married Anne Hathaway at the age of eighteen and between them they had two daughters Susanna and Judith together with a son Hamnet.

From 1585 and 1592 he started writing, was an actor and also was a part owner of the theatrical company the 'Lord Chamberlin's men' – later to be re-named the 'King's men'.



Most of his plays were written between 1590 and 1613; his first works were largely either comedies (such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*) or were historically based (such as 'Henry V') – his later works were largely tragedies (such as, for example, 'Macbeth' and 'Hamlet').

William Shakespeare was the third child of eight and although his exact birthdate is not recorded, it is known that he was baptised on 26th April 1564. William Shakespeare's father John Shakespeare was a glover and alderman while his mother Mary Shakespeare (nee Mary Arden) was the daughter of an affluent farmer.

It is believed that William Shakespeare spent most of his schooling at King's New School in Stratford, approximately a quarter of a mile from his childhood home.

On the 27th November 1582 and at the age of 18, William married Anne Hathaway some 8 years senior his senior aged 26. There is some evidence that their wedding was arranged in some haste – almost certainly due to Anne being pregnant since their first child Susanna was born some six months later. Two years later, twins (a boy Hamnet and a girl Judith) were born to William and Anne Shakespeare. In 1586, Hamnet died at the age of 11 – although the cause is not known.

Between 1585 and 1592, little is known of William Shakespeare's life - and indeed this period is often known as 'Shakespeare's lost years'. There has been considerable speculation that during this time, Shakespeare worked as a schoolmaster in a local school although no reliable records exist to substantiate this.

While it is not known exactly when Shakespeare began to write, records show that several plays of his were being performed as early as 1592 in London.

It is known that in 1594, Shakespeare's plays were performed (at this time solely) by a company called 'The Lord Chamberlin's Men' – formed by a collection of players including William Shakespeare.

During 1593 and 1594, Shakespeare also wrote poems, Venus Adonis and The Rape of Lucrece.

In 1597 Shakespeare bought a large house in Stratford Upon Avon from the proceeds of his now flourishing theatrical and writing career – although during his working life, he continued to split his time between Stratford and London.

In 1603 and after the death of Queen Elizabeth I, the Lord Chamberlin's men were awarded a royal patent by the new monarch James I – and accordingly they changed their name to 'The King's Men'. The King's Men built their own theatre in 1599 – 'The Globe'. In 1608 The King's Men purchased the Blackfriars indoor theatre and it is also known that Shakespeare made a number of private property purchases.

By 1598, Shakespeare was beginning to be known as a playwright although he continued to act within his own and other author's plays.

From around 1600 onwards, Shakespeare increasingly based himself in Stratford although he still visited London on a regular basis till his death in 1612 - leaving his wife and two daughters Susanna and Judith. In 1607 Susanna married a physician and in 1607, just two months before William Shakespeare's death, Judith married a vintner.

Shakespeare was buried in the chancel of Holy Trinity church, Stratford.

Many commentators of Shakespeare's life have compartmentalised his writing into four periods:

Until the mid 1590s, he mainly wrote comedies in a chronicle type format.

He then moved into a second phase of writing during which time he wrote tragedies such as Romeo and Juliet and Julius Caesar - as well as a number of comedies and histories.

Between approximately 1600 and 1608, William Shakespeare wrote largely tragedies. In 1609 Shakespeare published the first edition of the sonnets comprising 154 pieces of work – although some had already been published without William Shakespeare's permission. It is thought that the sonnets were written throughout his literary career – largely for a private readership including his close acquaintances and friends.

In the fourth and final phase from approximately 1608 to 1613, Shakespeare wrote a number of romances sometimes known as 'tragicomedies'.

The Works of William Shakespeare:

Plays:

Comedies:

- **All's Well that Ends Well**
- **As You Like It**
- **The Comedy of Errors**
- **Love's Labour Lost**
- **Measure For Measure**
- **The Merchant Of Venice**
- **A Midsummer Night's Dream**
- **Much Ado About Nothing**
- **Pericles, Prince of Tyre**
- **The Taming Of The Shrew**
- **The Tempest**
- **Twelfth Night or What You Will**
- **The Two Gentlemen Of Verona**
- **The Two Noble Kinsmen**
- **The Winter's Tale**

Histories:

- 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:

- Romeo and Juliet
- Coriolanus
- Titus Andronicus
- Timon of Athens
- Julius Caesar
- Macbeth
- Hamlet
- Troilus and Cressida
- King Lear
- Othello
- Anthony and Cleopatra
- Cymbeline

Poems:

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

Lost Plays:

- Love's Labour's Won
- Cardenio

Apocrypha:

- Arden of Faversham
- The Birth of Merlin
- Lochrine
- The London Prodigal
- The Puritan
- The Second Maiden's Tragedy
- Sir John Oldcastle
- Thomas Lord Cromwell
- A Yorkshire Tragedy
- Edward III
- Sir Thomas More

Links to Further William Shakespeare Resources and Internet Sites of Interest:

1) Royal Shakespeare Theatre – Straford Upon Avon:

The Royal Shakespeare Theatre is the largest theatre in Stratford-Upon-Avon, the town of William Shakespeare's birth, and offers audiences a wide selection of plays, not only written by Shakespeare himself, but also those written by more contemporary playwrights

<http://www.ukattraction.com/heart-of-england/the-royal-shakespeare-theatre.htm>

2) Royal Shakespeare Company:

Official site. Information about plays, repertory, tickets, and merchandise: Theatre Royal, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Stay up to date with what's going on at the RSC ...

<http://www.rsc.org.uk/home/default.aspx>

3) Shakespeare Birthplace Trust:

A very useful site with a lost of information and links to further resources

http://www.shakespeare.org.uk/index.php?option=com_simplefaq&task=display&Itemid=426&catid=16&date=2007-04-01

4) BBC: Shakespeare pages

BBC web-site on all things Shakespeare....

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/topics/shakespeare>

5) No Sweat Shakespeare:

A great web-site with a host of Shakespeare resources ranging from play summaries, student notes and articles / essays.....

<http://www.nosweatshakespeare.com/resources/royal-shakespeare-company-rsc.htm>

6) Facebook: Shakespeare:

Shakespeare Facebook group....

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=25628270112>

7) Shakespeare Art Museum - Ashland, Oregon:

Featuring the Writings & Visual Works on Shakespearean Themes of Hannah Tompkins.

<http://shakespeare-art-museum.com/>

8) The Shakespeare Express and Other Steam Train Tours:

The Shakespeare Express is a regular steam train service that runs on Summer Sundays through the Warwickshire countryside.... Shakespeare's County..... between Birmingham and Stratford-upon-Avon. Passengers may join the trains at Birmingham (Snow Hill or Moor St), Stratford, Henley or Tyseley.

<http://www.shakespeareexpress.com/>

9) British Libraay: Shakespeare Treasures:

A listing of the British Library's holding plus some on-line rosources.....

<http://www.bl.uk/treasures/shakespeare/homepage.html>

10) Shakespeare Country:

A toursist / visitor web-site dedicated to the Warishire and surrounding countrysire: 'Shakespeare Country' in the Midlands of the UK.

<http://www.shakespeare-country.co.uk/>

11) The Warwickshire Museum:

A web-site for the Warwickshire Museum with a significant quantity of Shakespeare related material

<http://www.shakespeare-country.co.uk/warwick/thedms.asp?dms=13&venue=2730970>

12) Shakespeare's Globe:

Official site for Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. Includes theatre, education, and exhibition departments

<http://www.shakespeares-globe.org/>

13) Shakespeare Society of America;

A wide ranging web-site: 'Promoting the Value of William Shakespeare Since 1968' plus details on a Shakespeare Memorabilia Museum.

<http://www.shakespearesocietyofamerica.org/index.html>

14) Guildford Shakespeare Company:

Web-site for the Guildford Shakespeare Company – Guildford UK

<http://www.guilford-shakespeare-company.co.uk/events.html>

Online Resources to Becoming Published:

- 1) **Novel Writing Made Easy:** Professional Authors Step-by-step System (manual & Workbook Included) For Planning A Novel.

<http://snipurl.com/3g5rg>

- 2) **Newnovelist:** This software provides a Step-By-Step Guide to Writing and Publishing Your First Novel.

<http://snipurl.com/3g5cm>

- 3) **Advanced Fiction Writing:** Writing a Novel is Easy! Writing a Great Novel Is Hard: Award-winning Novelist And Acclaimed Fiction Teacher Randy Ingermanson Tells You His Secrets. Learn The Three Things You Must Have To Sell A Novel.

<http://snipurl.com/3g5bz>