

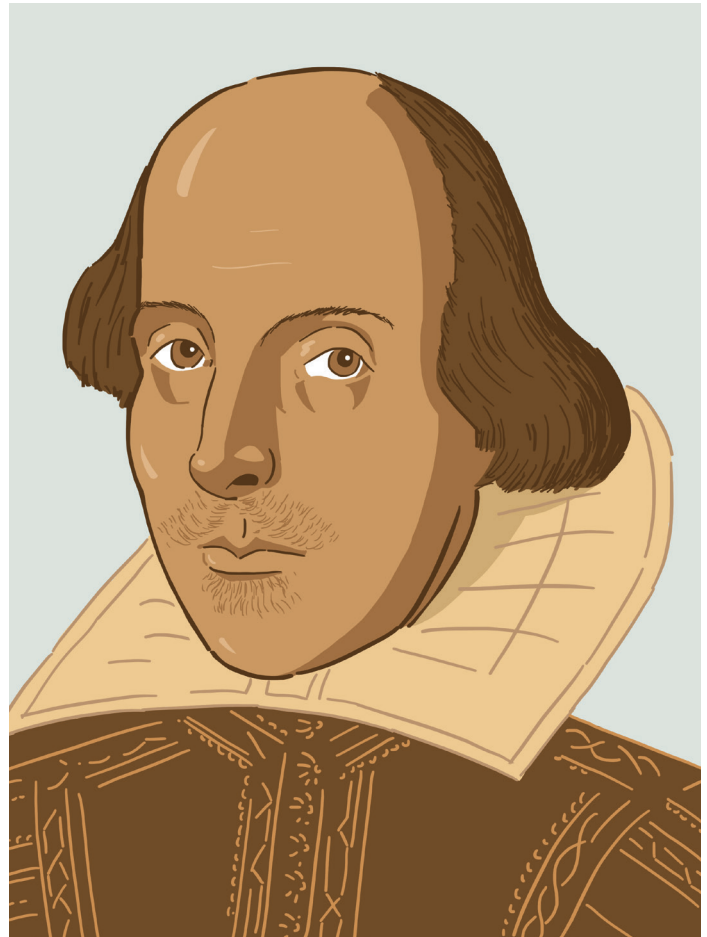
William Shakespeare

In this lesson, you will learn about the most popular English writer of all time. You will learn some new vocabulary and discuss your interest in theater and poetry.

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Do you enjoy reading poetry?
2. Do you like going to live theater performances?
3. Have you ever read a play by William Shakespeare? If so, which one(s)?
4. What kind of books do you enjoy reading?
5. Who is your favorite writer?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| _____ 1. local | a) rich |
| _____ 2. sonnet | b) a story that has a terrible or sad ending for the main character |
| _____ 3. wealthy | c) the members of a royal family (e.g., king, queen, princess, prince) |
| _____ 4. sponsor | d) from a nearby area |
| _____ 5. peasant | e) a story that makes people laugh |
| _____ 6. royalty | f) to place a dead body underground |
| _____ 7. bury | g) a person who studies a lot and becomes an expert in a subject |
| _____ 8. comedy | h) a fourteen-line poem with a set rhyme scheme |
| _____ 9. tragedy | i) a word used long ago to describe a person who is poor |
| _____ 10. scholar | j) to provide financial support in exchange for having one's name associated with something |

Reading

1. William Shakespeare is known as the greatest English writer of all time.
2. Shakespeare was born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. His father, John, was a glove-maker and his mother, Mary, came from a farming family. He had two brothers and four sisters. William went to the village school.
3. In 1582, Shakespeare married a **local** woman named Anne Hathaway. Their daughter Susanna was born in 1583 and their twins, Hamnet and Judith, were born in 1585.
4. Nothing is known about Shakespeare's life from 1585 to about 1591. It is known that, by 1592, he was an actor living in London. He started writing poems about this time and later wrote more than 150 **sonnets**, which were published in 1609. He was also writing plays.
5. In 1594, Shakespeare and some other actors started a new theatre company. It was sponsored by a **wealthy** nobleman, the Lord Chamberlain. When James I became king, he **sponsored** their company, and it became known as the "King's Men."
6. In 1599, the company built a new theater called the Globe. Shakespeare was one of its owners. For over 20 years, he wrote about two plays a year for the acting company to perform in the Globe theatre. Everyone, from **royalty** to **peasants**, came to see his plays.
7. Shakespeare became a wealthy man and bought a large house in Stratford. After about 1611, he spent most of his time there. He died on April 23, 1616, and was **buried** at Stratford. He was 52 years old.
8. Shakespeare's plays include **comedies**, **tragedies**, and histories. **Scholars** have studied his plays and poems for over 300 years. Some argue about whether he actually wrote some of the plays. Other scholars have tried to discover the identities of the man and woman he wrote about in his sonnets.
9. Today, all of his plays are still performed and enjoyed by people around the world.

"Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them."

—William Shakespeare

Comprehension

A. True or False?

Read the statements below.

If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence.

If it is false, write F and correct the information.

- _____ 1. William Shakespeare's father was a farmer.
- _____ 2. Anne Hathaway came from the same village as Shakespeare.
- _____ 3. A rich nobleman helped Shakespeare start a theater company.
- _____ 4. Only rich people came to see Shakespeare's plays.
- _____ 5. People have been reading Shakespeare's plays for over 300 years.

B. Ask and Answer

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner.

Then write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

- 1. Where was William Shakespeare from?
- 2. What did Shakespeare do when he went to London?
- 3. How was Shakespeare able to start a new theater company?
- 4. What was the name of his theater company?
What was the name of his theater?
- 5. What kind of plays did Shakespeare write?
- 6. In addition to plays, what else did he write?
- 7. How long have scholars been studying Shakespeare's writings?
- 8. Which period in Shakespeare's life do scholars know little about?

Vocabulary Review

Choose the word or phrase with the closest meaning to the underlined word or phrase in the following sentences.

1. Shakespeare married a local woman.
a) poor
b) from the area
c) very rich
2. Shakespeare wrote more than 150 sonnets.
a) poems
b) true stories
c) letters
3. A wealthy nobleman sponsored Shakespeare's theater company.
a) English
b) from the city
c) rich
4. A wealthy nobleman sponsored his theater company.
a) attended
b) really liked
c) helped by giving money
5. Everyone from royalty to peasants came to see his plays.
a) poor people
b) rich noblemen
c) children
6. Royalty came to see Shakespeare's plays.
a) scholars
b) wealthy noblemen
c) people belonging to a king or queen's family
7. Shakespeare was buried at Stratford.
a) started a theatre
b) put in the ground
c) died
8. Shakespeare wrote many comedies.
a) funny stories
b) sad stories
c) long stories
9. Shakespeare also wrote many tragedies.
a) long poems
b) funny stories
c) stories with very sad endings
10. Scholars have studied his plays for hundreds of years.
a) people who study all their lives
b) large schools
c) poets who write many poems

Discussion

1. Do you prefer to watch comedies or tragedies? Have you seen any plays recently that you particularly enjoyed? If so, tell your classmates about them.
2. Have you ever written a poem? Do you like writing?
3. Scholars do not know anything about Shakespeare's life between 1585 and 1591. What do you imagine he was doing during this time?
4. Do you think Shakespeare would have become famous if he had not received support from a nobleman and the king of England?