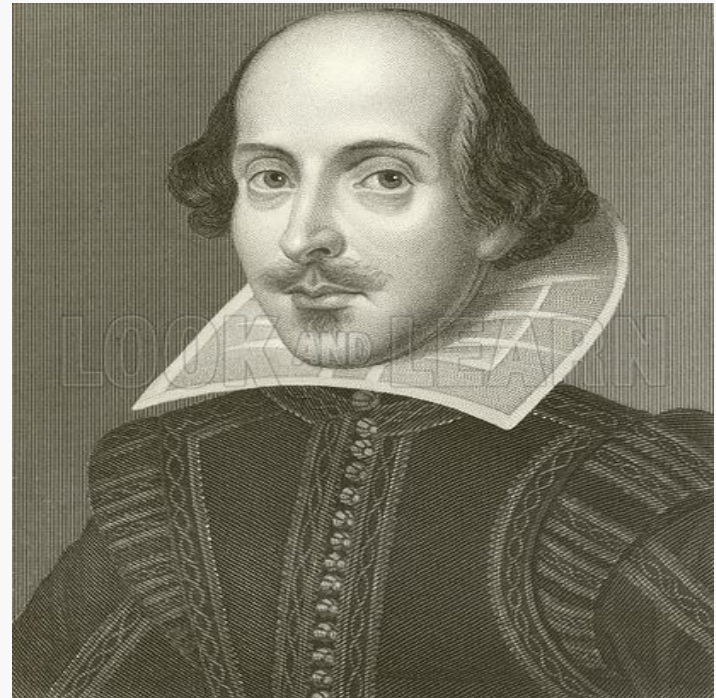


The importance of William Shakespeare's works to us.

Sofia Drokova, 8th Form

William Shakespeare, the greatest and most famous of English writers, and probably the greatest playwright who has ever lived. But why are his works still read, studied and loved 400 years later?



Shakespeare wrote about universal themes such as life and death, fate and free will, love, friendship, and others. He understood human nature very well, and created characters that are so popular because they seem real. For example, young people still fall in love, but their parents do not their approve choice, just like in his Romeo and Juliet.



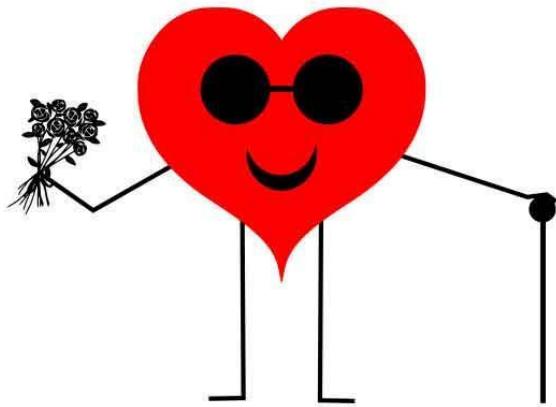
Shakespeare invented around 1,700 words which people still use in everyday English today. For example, such words as “moonbeam”, “birthplace”, “bedroom”, and “amazement” belong to Shakespeare. It is so amazing that one person could have such a great influence on the language.



Shakespeare's quotes are world-known for their beauty, truth and wisdom. *"To be or not to be, that is the question"* from Hamlet is probably one of the most famous quotes in literature.



Some of his phrases have become so common that people often aren't aware of their origin. For example, **“to break the ice”** (from *The Taming of the Shrew*) means to overcome a communication difficulty. Another famous phrase is **“love is blind”** (from *The Merchant of Venice*), which means that when you love someone, you are unable to see his or her faults.



LOVE IS BLIND



The sonnets are Shakespeare's most popular works, and some of them have become the most widely-read poems in English literature.

Nowadays, famous pop stars breathe a new life into the words of Shakespeare. In 2002, a popular singer David Gilmour recorded his musical interpretation of "Sonnet 18".

