

**WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE.
(1564-1616)**



Unfortunately, very little is known about W. Shakespeare's life, as nobody collected any facts for his biography during his lifetime.

The most important sources for the biography of William Shakespeare are official and documentary records: definite, reliable and dull. Of prime importance is the register of Stratford-on Avon Holy Trinity Church, which gives the date of the baptism of William Shakespeare, his marriage, the baptism of his children, and his death.

Holy Trinity Church



W. Shakespeare was born on April 23, 1564 in Stratford-on-Avon. William Shakespeare's father, John Shakespeare, was one of the wealthiest citizens. He was a glove-maker. And his mother, Mary Arden, belonged to an ancient and distinguished Catholic family.

William was their third child and the eldest son.

He must have attended Stratford Grammar school, where he acquired the knowledge of Latin and had a good education. There he learned to love reading.

W. Shakespeare's birthplace



William married when he was still a teenager, in 1582. His wife, Anne Hathaway, was 8 years older than he was. 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

William Shakespeare carved his living helping his father in the family business. Some people say that the reason he had left his wife and children was his love to poetry and theatre



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He left London in 1587. Some people say that the reason he had left his wife and children was his love to poetry and theatre. It is known that by 1592 Shakespeare had settled in London. In London Shakespeare began to act and to write plays and soon became an

of a well-known acting plays were performed in t on the bank of the River ames.

In 1593 a serious epidemic of the plague broke out, and all the theatres were closed down.

At that time William Shakespeare became a share-holder, the principal playwright and an actor of the southern bank of the Thames in London Globe theatre on the .

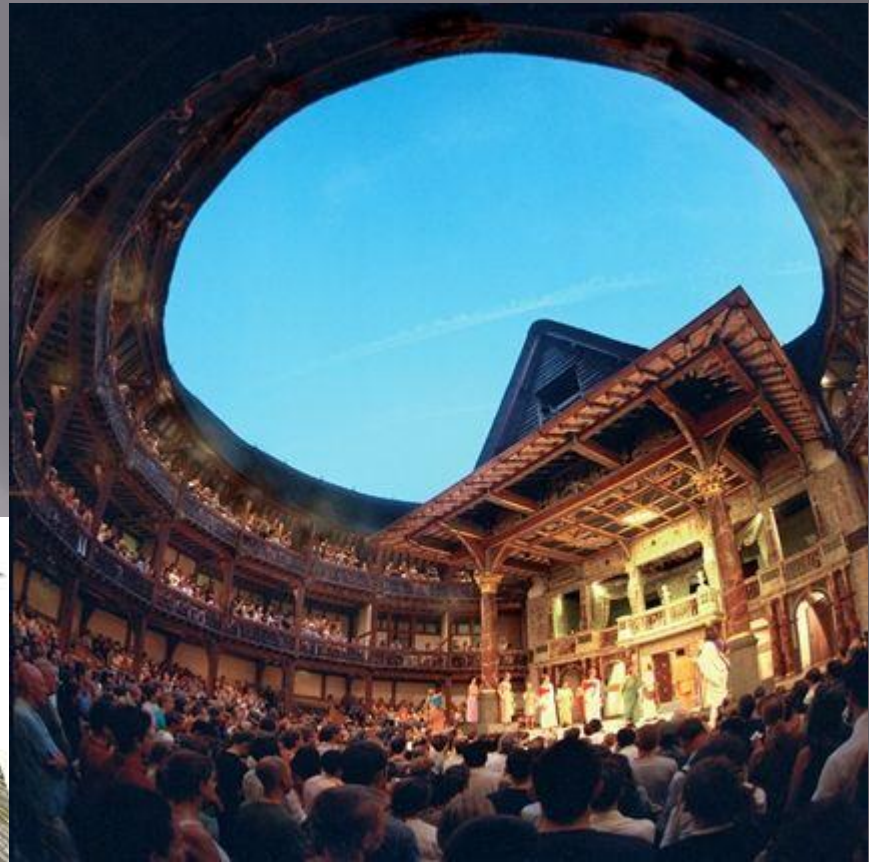
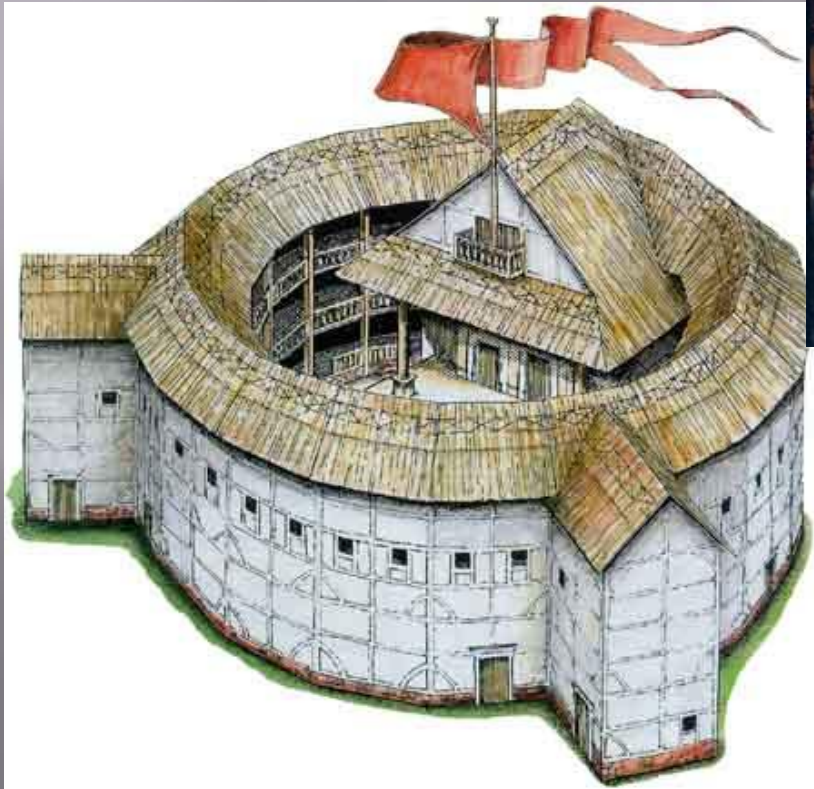


London and theatrical career

Not known exactly when Shakespeare began writing theatrical works, but the first extant sources belong to 1592.

Biographers believe that Shakespeare's career could come at any time since the middle of 1580th. From 1594 Shakespeare's plays were staged only troupe "The servants of Lord Chamberlain," which included Shakespeare. Company soon became the leading theater group in London. After the death of Queen Elizabeth in 1603, the troupe has received a royal patent by the new ruler, James I, and became known as the "Servants of the King". In 1599, the partnership members of the company has built on the south bank of the Thames a new theater, called the Globe. In 1608, they also acquired the indoor theater in Blekverse. Reports on real estate purchases by Shakespeare and his investments show that the company made him a wealthy man. In 1597, he bought the second-largest house in Stratford - New Place.

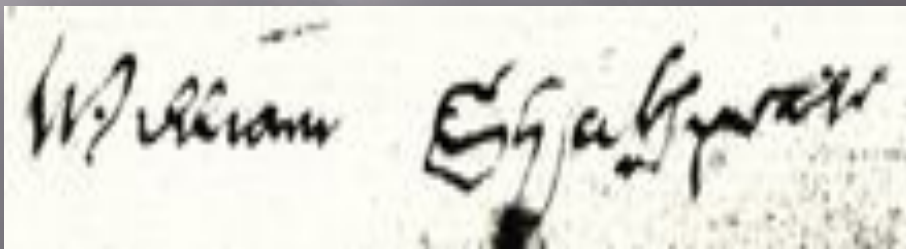
Recreated theater "Globe" in which Shakespeare worked troupe



Last years and death

Back in the 1597 Shakespeare bought the second largest house in Stratford. In 1605th he bought the right to receive tithes from the nearest land to the city. In 1612, Shakespeare for unknown reasons left the theater and returned to his home in Stratford, where they lived with his wife and daughter.

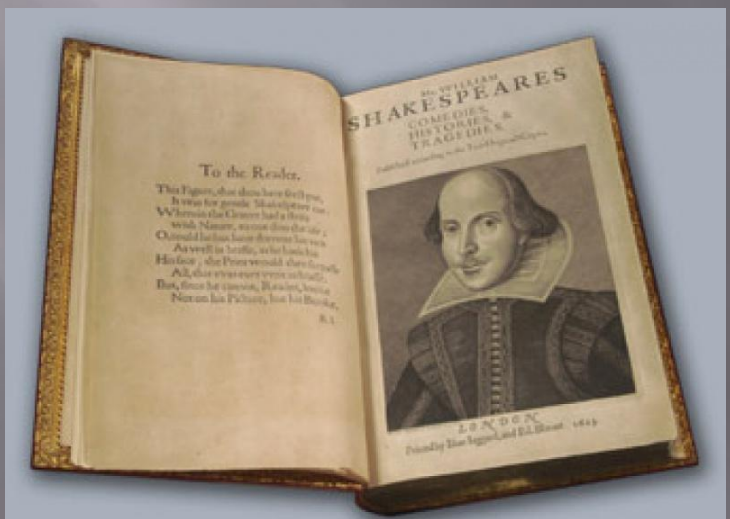
All surviving Shakespeare signatures on documents (1612-1613) have a very poor handwriting, based on which some researchers believe that it was at the time seriously ill. April 23, 1616 Shakespeare died. Traditionally, it is assumed that he died on his birthday.

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "William Shakespeare". The handwriting is somewhat slanted and appears to be from a historical document.

Shakespeare's autograph
on his will

Three days later, the body was buried in Shakespeare's Stratford St. Trinity. Written on his tombstone epitaph:

Good friend for Jesus sake forbear,
To dig the dust enclosed here.
Blest be the man that spares thes stones,
And curst be he that moves my bones





The church was erected as a painted bust of Shakespeare, next to which are two epitaphs - in Latin and English. Latin epitaph compares Shakespeare piloskim wise King Nestor, Socrates, and Virgil.

Shakespeare has survived a widow, Anne (d. 1623), and two daughters. The last direct descendant of Shakespeare was his granddaughter Elizabeth Barnard (1608-1670), the daughter of Susan Shakespeare and Dr. John Hall. Three sons Judith Shakespeare (in marriage Quinn) died young, leaving no offspring.

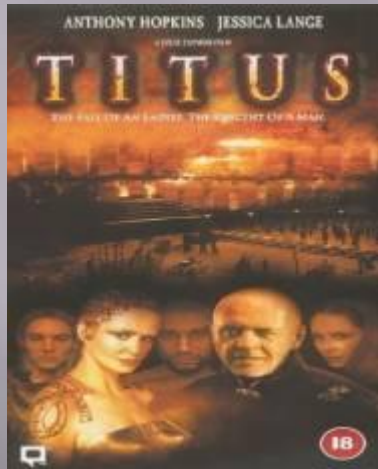
The bust of Shakespeare in the church. Trinity Church in Stratford

In 1623 Shakespeare's plays were collected by his fellow-actors and published in a single volume known as the First Folio.

His literary work may be divided into four periods. The plays are dated according to the theatrical season in which they were first staged.

William Shakespeare wrote 37 plays and 154 sonnets.

The first period (the period of apprenticeship) includes the plays that were written under the influence of the University Wits.



1590/91 Henry VI, parts II and III

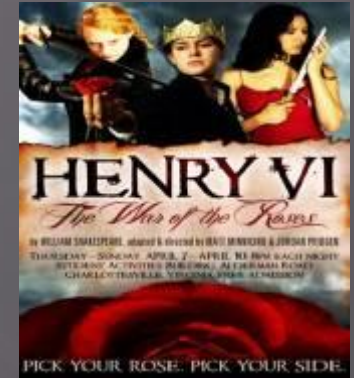
1591/92 Henry VI, part I

1592/93 Richard III

The Comedy of Errors

1593/94 Titus Andronicus

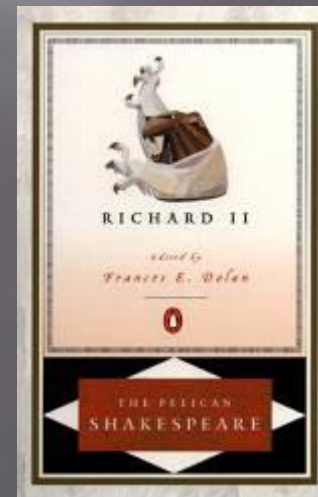
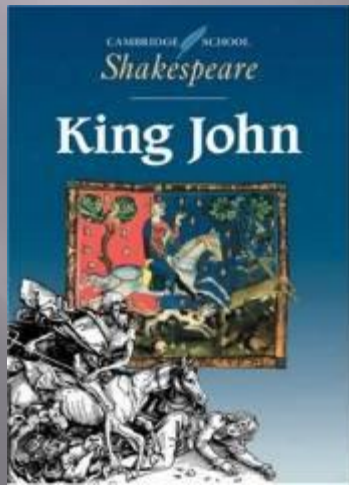
The Taming of the Shrew



During the second period William Shakespeare mainly wrote historical plays, chronicles, comedies . The only tragedy was “Romeo and Juliet”:

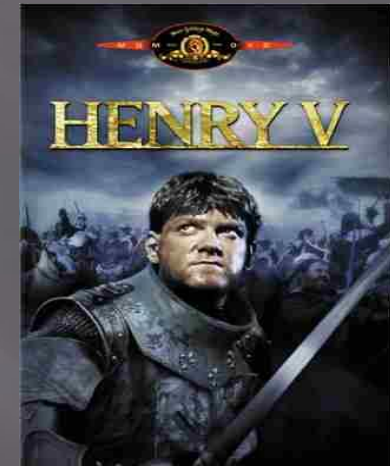
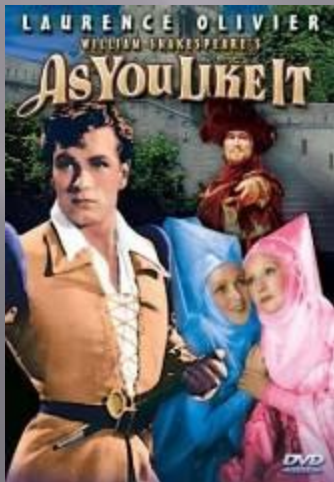
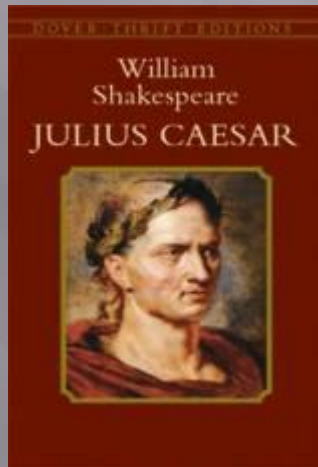
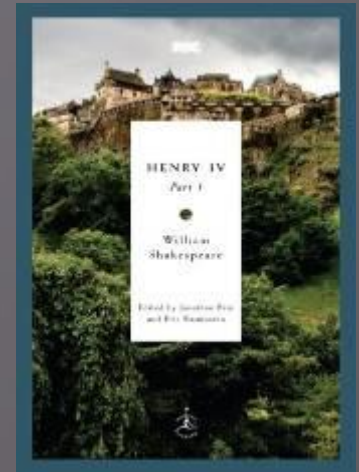


1594/95 The Two Gentlemen of Verona
Love's Labour Lost
Romeo and Juliet
1595/96 Richard II
A Midsummer Night's Dream
1596/97 King John
The Merchant of Venice





1597/98 Henry IV
1598/99 Much Ado About Nothing
Henry V
1599/1600 Julius Caesar
As You Like It
Twelfth Night



The third period is marked by Shakespeare's great tragedies that were the peak of his achievement, and made him truly immortal:



Hamlet

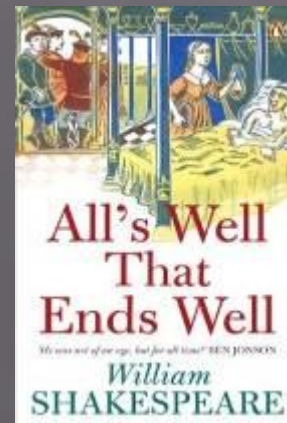
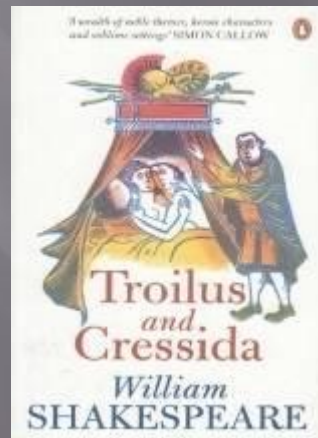
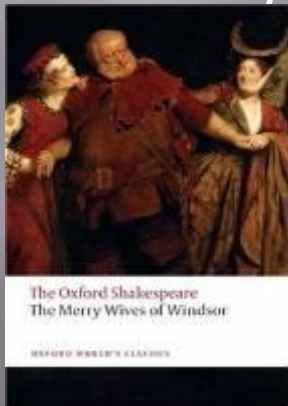
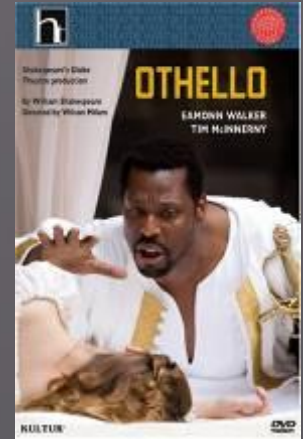
The Merry Wives of Windsor

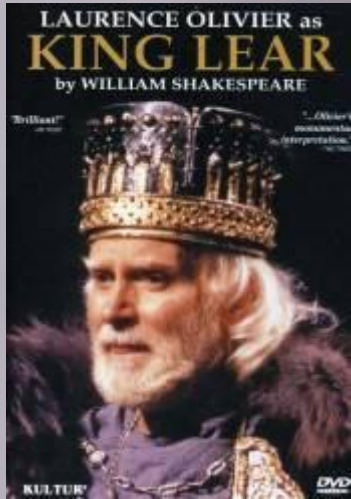
Troilus and Cressida

All's Well That Ends Well

1604/05 Measure for Measure

Othello





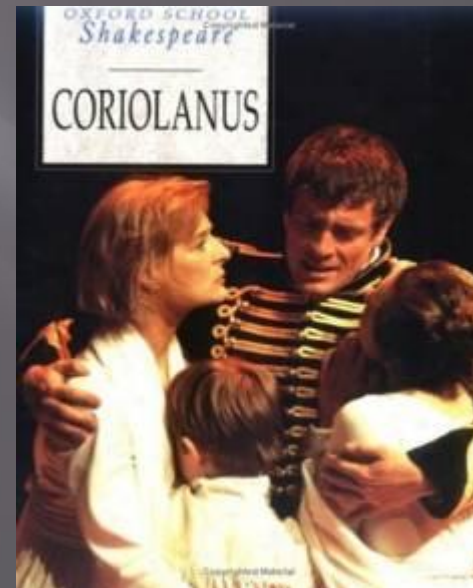
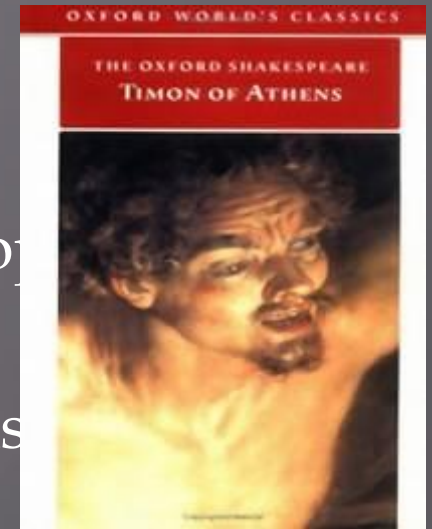
1605/06 King Lear

Macbeth

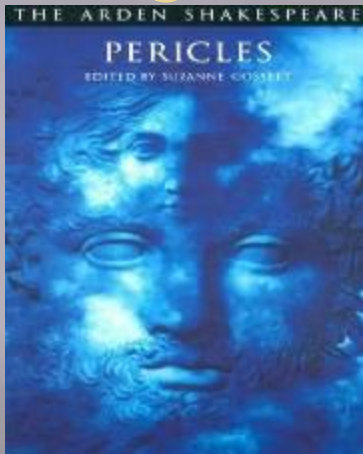
1606/07 Antony and Cleopatra

1607/08 Coriolanus

Timon of Athens



The fourth period of Shakespeare's creative activity is mainly constituted of the romantic dramas – plays written around a dramatic conflict, but the tension in them is not so great as in tragedies, all of them have happy endings:



1608/09 Pericles

1609/10 Cymbeline

1610/11 The Winter's Tale

1611/12 The Tempest

1612/13 Henry VIII



The most famous plays written by Shakespeare

- ▣ 1593 "The Comedy of Errors"
- ▣ 1595 "Romeo and Juliet"
- ▣ 1596 "A Midsummer Night's Dream"
- ▣ 1599 "Julius Caesar"
- ▣ 1600 "As You Like It"
- ▣ 1600 "Twelfth Night"
- ▣ 1601 "Hamlet"
- ▣ 1603 "All's Well That Ends Well"
- ▣ 1604 "Othello"
- ▣ 1606 "King Lear"
- ▣ 1606 "Macbeth"