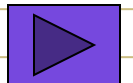


William Shakespeare



1564-1616



Shakespeare: The Bard

William Shakespeare is called

The Bard and also

The Bard of Avon, because he is considered to be the greatest poet that ever lived.

The word "bard" means poet. *Bards were traveling poets in medieval times, who made a living performing and telling stories.*

Childhood

- Born April 23 (we think), 1564
- Stratford-upon-Avon, England
- Father was a local prominent merchant



Family Life



- Married Ann Hathaway 1582 (when he was 18, she was 26)
- Three children:
Susanna born in 1583,
twins Judith and
Hamnet born 1585
- Hamnet died at age 11; the girls never had any children





1585-1592

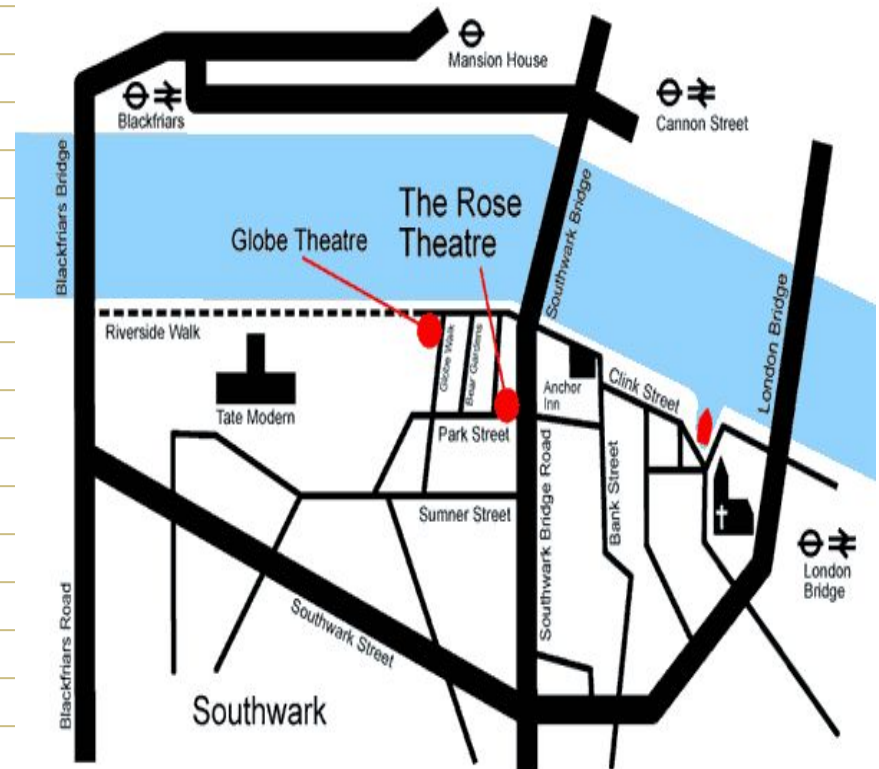
The Lost Years

- We have no records of his life during this time period
- It is speculated that he might have been a teacher, a butcher, or an actor to support his family.
- In 1592, he is in London, while Ann and the kids are still in Stratford-upon-Avon



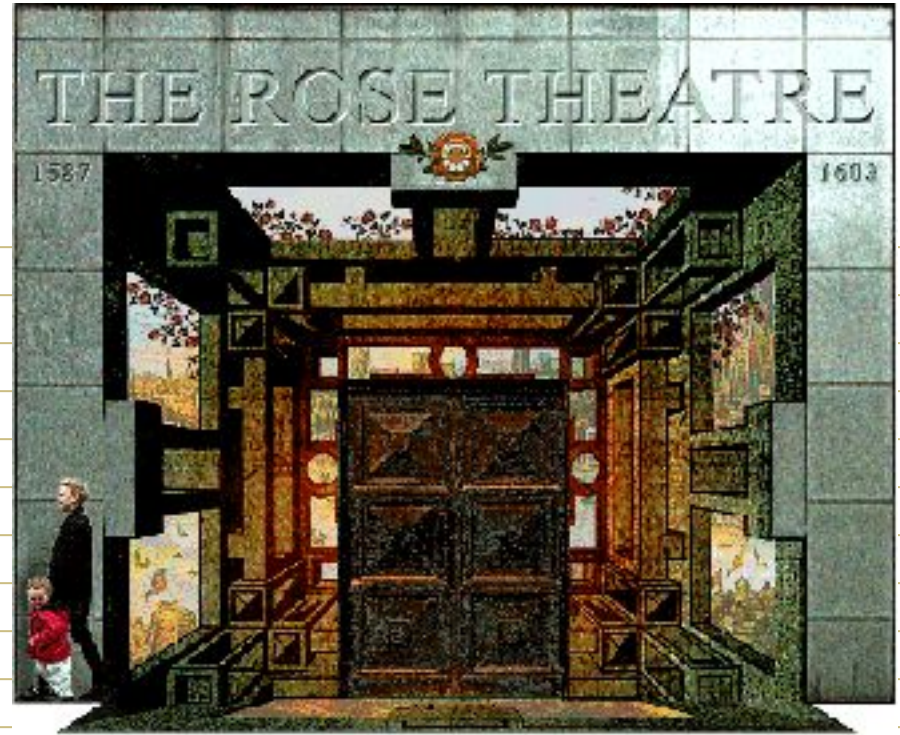
The Theatres...

- The Theatre, built in 1576
- The Rose, built in 1587 (London's first "Bankside" theatre)
- The Swan, 1595
- The Globe (Shakespeare helped construct in 1598-1599)



About the theatres

- Protestants condemned the plays
- Theatres were on the outskirts of London--away from the authorities
- People who attended the theatres included:

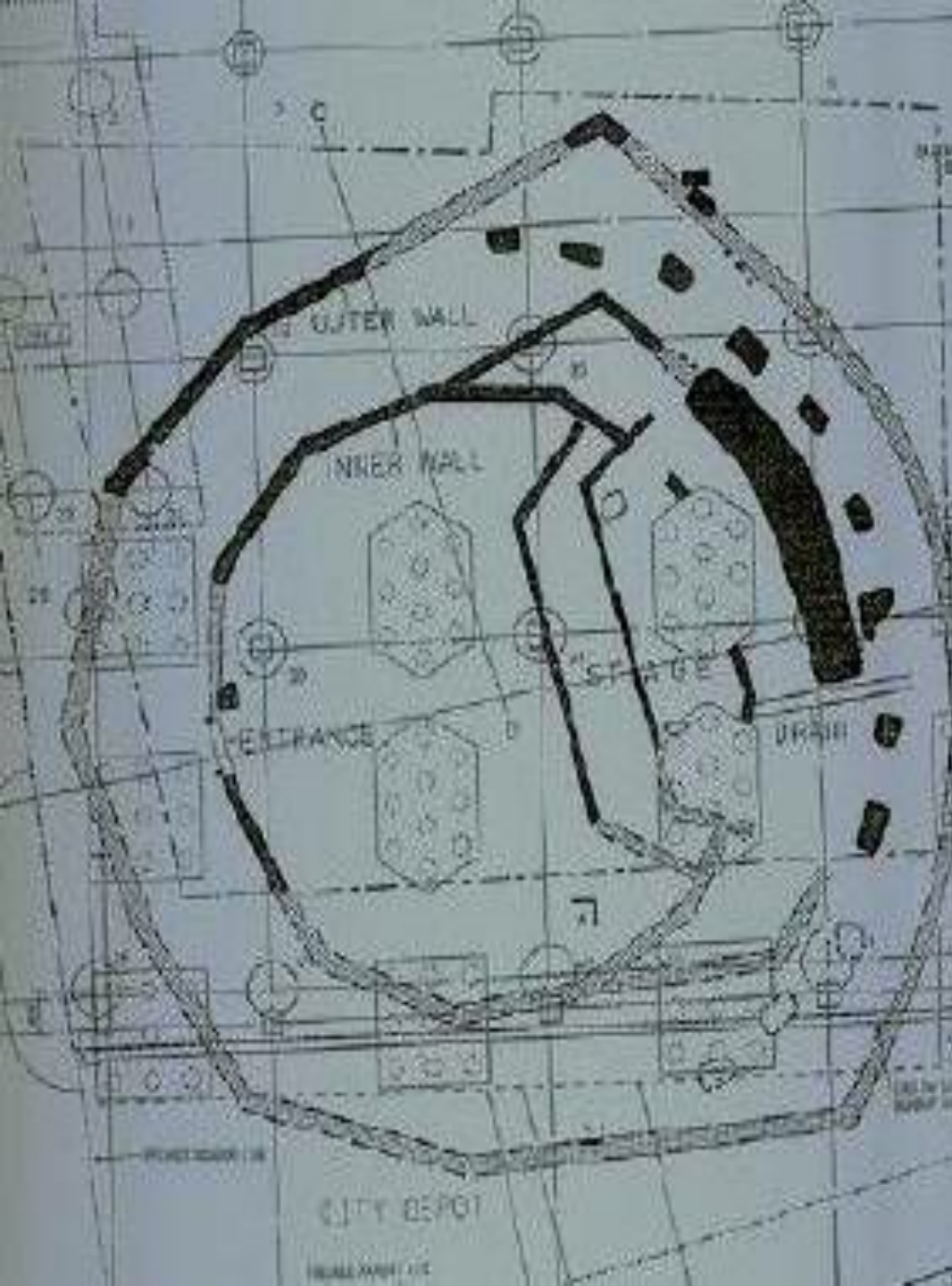


- merchants
- lawyers
- laborers
- prostitutes
- visitors from other countries
- nobility & royalty



THE GLOBE THEATER

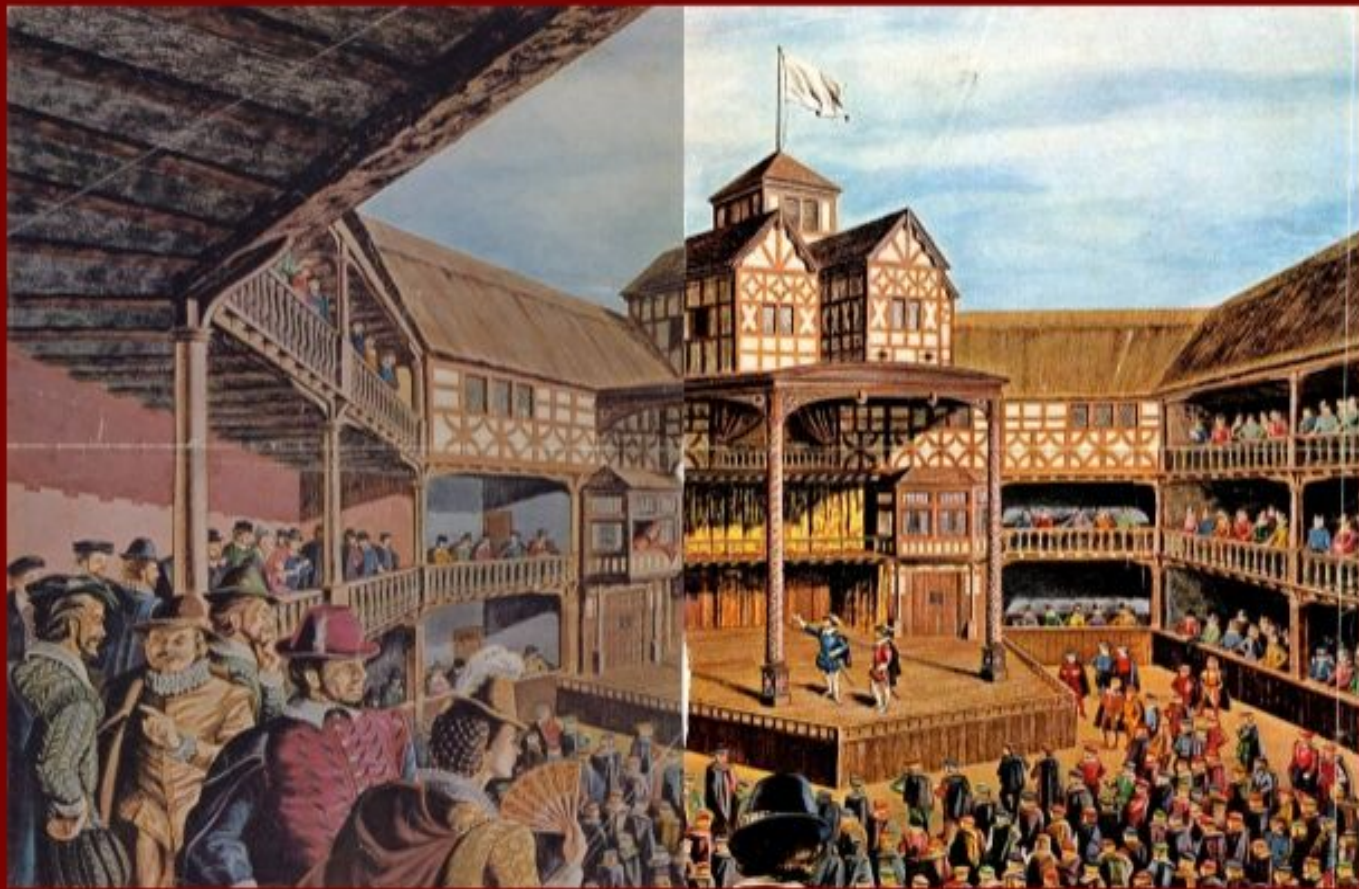
- ✍ Built in 1599
- ✍ The most magnificent theater in London
- ✍ Shakespeare was 1/5 owner
- ✍ He earned 10% of the total profit, approximately £200-250 a year
- ✍ The Bard retired to Stratford and lived on the profits he earned from the Globe
- ✍ June 19, 1613 the Globe burned to the ground during a performance of *Henry VIII*



- No lighting
- No scenery-
just a curtain
- Could hold
around 2,000
people

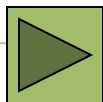
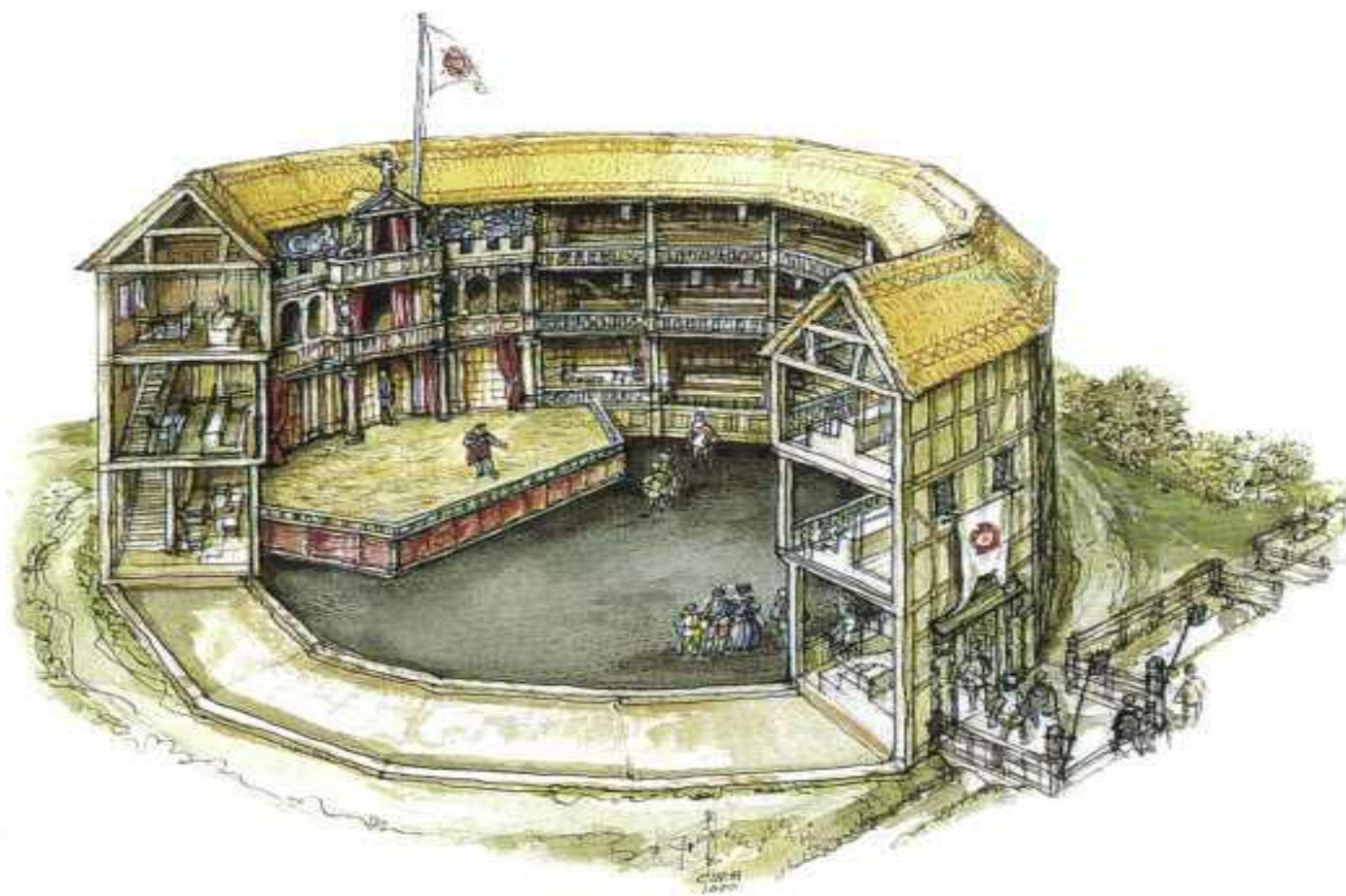


A white flag indicates that there is a play today.



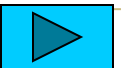
Globe Theater

- Drinking and eating were permitted in the pit, which often became very noisy
- If a spectator did not like a particular character or scene, he or she would feel free to hiss or boo or throw anything he or she might have on hand



Costumes...

- Richly decorated
- Didn't always match up to the time period of the play
- Looking good was more important than being realistic!



Actors

- **Only men and boys allowed onstage**
- **Young boys whose voices had not changed play women's roles**
- **It would have been considered indecent for a woman to appear on stage**

The Globe Theater



These photos are from the reconstructed Globe Theater built in 1997.



Poetry

- Shakespeare wrote 154 sonnets
 - poem of fourteen lines
 - follows a strict rhyme scheme and specific structure
- Shakespeare also wrote three narrative poems.

Plays

- Shakespeare wrote 37 plays
- His plays fall into 3 categories:
 - Tragedies
 - Histories
 - Comedies

Most Famous Works

- Tragedies
 - Hamlet
 - Macbeth
 - Julius Caesar
 - King Lear
 - Othello
 - Romeo and Juliet

"To be, or not to be: that is the question". - Hamlet (Act III, Scene I).

Comedies - well known comedies include:

*A Midsummer Nights Dream, Much
Ado About Nothing and As You Like It.*

Histories - Some of his best histories would be

Richard III, Henry IV, Henry V,
and Henry VI.

William Shakespeare

Works of Literature

He had an
amazing
influence on
our English
language



William Shakespeare

Works of Literature

- He wrote 37 very successful plays
- His vocabulary was HUGE-somewhere between 17,000 and 34,000 words!
- The estimated vocabulary of an educated person today is around 15,000 words

More words that first appeared in his plays

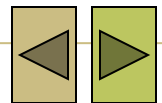
- Accommodation
 - Assassination
 - Dexterously
 - Dislocate
 - Obscene
 - Reliance
 - Premeditate
- lonely
gloomy
fretful
suspicious
hurry

Shakespeare's Last Days



His will, which he revised a month before dying, left the bulk of his estate to his oldest daughter, and the bed to his wife.

- Between 1611-1612, Shakespeare returns to Stratford to his wife and family.
- Dies April 23, 1616 at the age of 53



Love of the Language

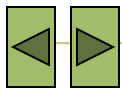


In Shakespeare's time, everyone loved the English language.

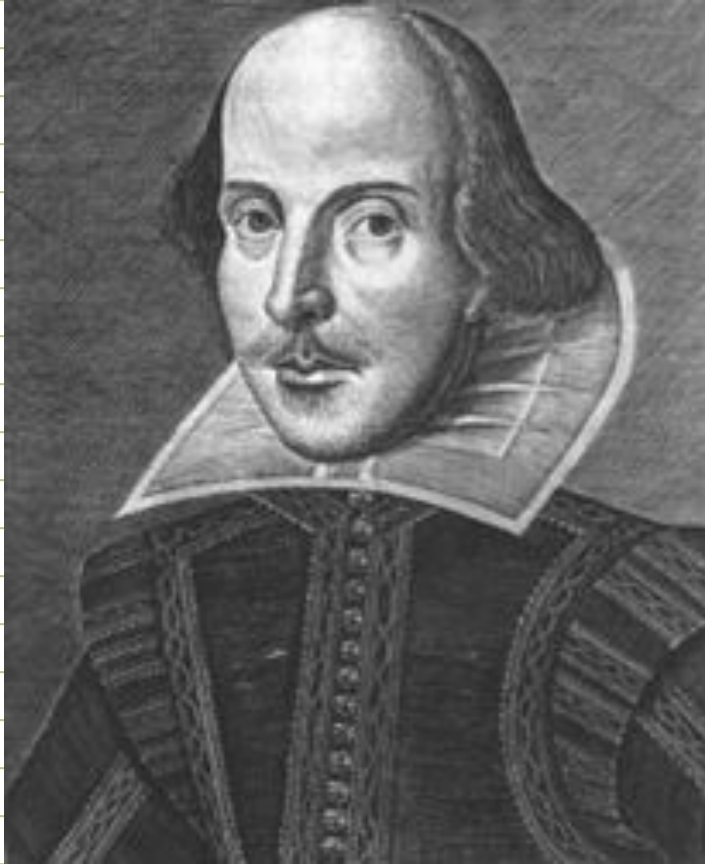
There were no grammar rules, punctuation keys, OR spelling!

The language was evolving and everyday new words were being made up.

Shakespeare's language reflects this freedom and experimentation.

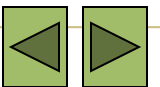


Why study Shakespeare?



Chances are, you've quoted Shakespeare without even knowing it!

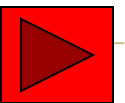
Have you ever said the following...



“in a pickle”

“It’s Greek to me.”

*“Too much of a
good thing.”*

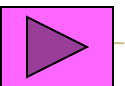
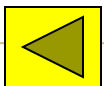


“as luck would have it”

“good riddance”

“dead as a door-nail”

“foul play”

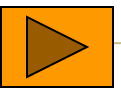


“a laughing stock”

“an eyesore”

“send me packing”

*“without rhyme or
reason”*

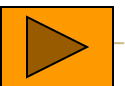
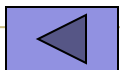


“a charmed life”

“green-eyed monster”

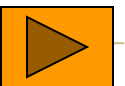
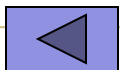
“mum’s the word”

“break the ice”



*Brevity is
the soul of wit*

Forever and a day



“All’s Well That Ends Well”

