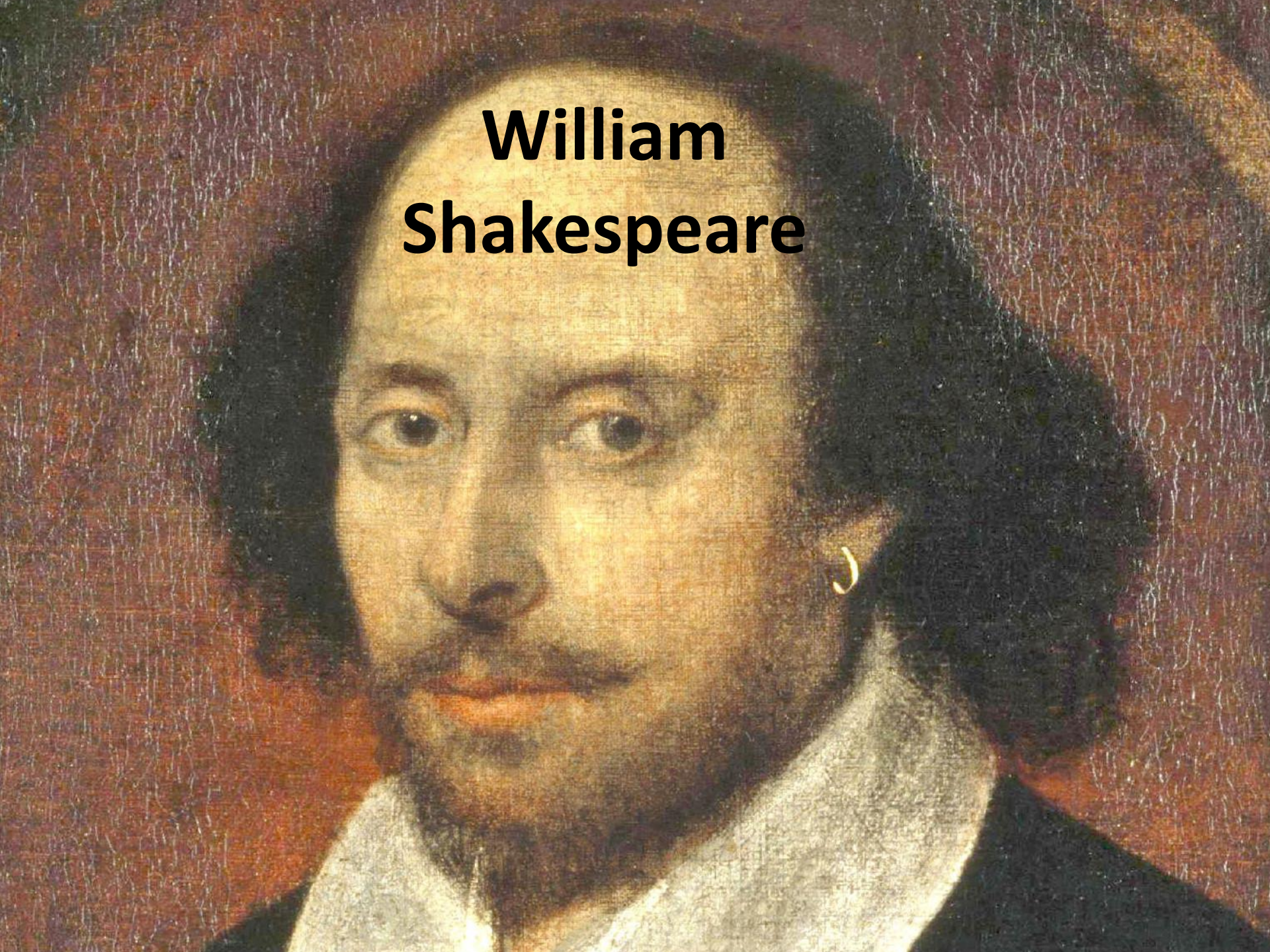


**William  
Shakespeare**



William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, a bustling market town 100 miles northwest of London, and baptized there on April 26, 1564. His birthday is traditionally celebrated on April 23, which was the date of his death in 1616 and is the feast day of St. George, the patron saint of England. William was the third of eight Shakespeare children, of whom three died in childhood. His parents, John Shakespeare and Mary Arden, were successful townsmen who moved to a large house in Henley Street, Stratford-upon-Avon from the surrounding villages. His father became a wealthy town official and his mother was from an important, respected family.



It is widely assumed that he attended the local grammar school where he studied Latin, Greek and classical literature. His early education must have made a huge impact on him because many of his plots draw on the classics.





In November, 1582, at 18-year age, Shakespeare married Ann Hathaway, the daughter of the local land owner. Anna was eight years older than William — in a year of a marriage he was eighteen, she — twenty six. Perhaps, the marriage was compelled: in May of the following 1583 their first child — the daughter Susan was born. In 1585 — twins: son Hemnet, who dead in 11 years in August, 1596, and the daughter Judith. It's practically no information about Shakespeare's relationship with his wife. Apparently, Anna lived in Stratford while William worked in London though he didn't leave the affairs in his hometown and probably from time to time came home. In the second half of the 1580th Shakespeare leaves Stratford. Come so-called "lost" or "dark years" of which we know practically nothing.



He probably arrived in London in 1586 or 1587. Tradition says that William escaped from a traveling troupe of theater. The women of that time had no documents and couldn't play on stage. William took advantage of it, and, disguised as a woman, escaped from Stratford to London.

William Shakespeare left home and went to London to follow his dream in playing in the theater. By 1592 Shakespeare had begun working as an actor, penned several plays and spent enough time in London to write about its geography, culture and diverse personalities with great authority.



Shakespeare died at age 52 of unknown causes on April 23, 1616, leaving the bulk of his estate to his daughter Susanna. (Anne Hathaway, who outlived her husband by seven years, received his famous “second-best bed.”)



## РОД ШЕКСПИРОВ

Ричард Шекспир ? — 1561

Роберт Арден ? — 1556

Генри  
? — 1596

Джон  
? — 1601

Мария  
? — 1608

