

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

William Shakespeare

Before reading

1 Guess

How much do you know about William Shakespeare? Three of these sentences are true. Which are they?

- 1 Shakespeare lived over 400 years ago.
- 2 Shakespeare was born and grew up in the city of London.
- 3 Shakespeare worked as an actor as well as writing plays.
- 4 Shakespeare visited America three times.
- 5 When Shakespeare died, he was very poor.
- 6 Many of Shakespeare's plays weren't published until after his death.

While reading

2 Comprehension

Read to the section break on page 22. Complete the questions with the words from the box, then answer them.

How many Where Who How long Why What

- 1 _____ were the names of Shakespeare's parents?

- 2 _____ did so many people die from the plague?

- 3 _____ did Shakespeare go to school?

- 4 _____ was Anne Hathaway?

- 5 _____ children did Shakespeare and Anne have?

- 6 _____ were Shakespeare and Anne married?

3 Comprehension

Read to the section break on page 24. Then choose the correct word to complete these sentences.

- 1 The streets of London were full of *dogs* / *rats*.
- 2 Sir Francis Drake was a very brave *army* / *sea* captain.
- 3 The English people loved going to the *theatre* / *cinema*.
- 4 By 1592, Shakespeare had become a famous *actor* / *movie star*.
- 5 The Earl of Southampton became Shakespeare's *boss* / *patron*.
- 6 Shakespeare wrote several plays about English *kings* / *queens*.

4 Comprehension and writing

Read to the end of the story. Then answer these questions.

- 1 Who were the Lord Chamberlain's men?

- 2 Why was Robert Greene jealous of Shakespeare?

- 3 What personal tragedy happened to Shakespeare in 1596?

- 4 What did the Globe Theatre look like?

- 5 Why did the Lord Chamberlain's men change their name to the King's Men?

- 6 What was published in 1623?

After reading

5 Language

Find the 14 words from the box in the wordsearch.

carts fascinated income merchant mud
patron percentage permanent plague rags
rats sonnet survive wealthy

P	E	R	C	E	N	T	A	G	E
E	A	P	L	A	G	U	E	I	L
R	A	G	S	L	P	T	H	N	W
M	E	R	C	H	A	N	T	C	E
A	E	A	W	O	T	R	L	O	A
N	D	T	C	A	R	T	S	M	L
E	S	S	A	S	O	N	N	E	T
N	S	T	A	G	N	M	U	D	H
T	E	S	U	R	V	I	V	E	Y
F	A	S	C	I	N	A	T	E	D

Now write down all the letters in the puzzle that you have not used. There are 18 letters. Start with the first line and continue across each line to the end. The letters make the first line of a famous speech from one of Shakespeare's plays. Write it on the line below.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

William Shakespeare

6 Follow-up activity

Write your own sentences using each word from the puzzle so that the word's meaning is clear. Your sentences can be about the story but you mustn't copy sentences from the story.

7 Playing detective

In the introduction to his story, Shakespeare says, '*But some things about my life are a mystery.*'

What things about Shakespeare's life would you like to know that are not covered in the story? Make a list.

8 Research and speaking

Choose one or more of Shakespeare's famous plays from this list (or you can choose a different play):

- *Romeo and Juliet*
- *Hamlet*
- *The Merchant of Venice*
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Do an online search and make notes about the play(s) you have chosen. If you are studying as part of a class, give a presentation to the class. Talk about:

- 1 what kind of play it is (comedy, tragedy, history).
- 2 the main characters and story.
- 3 whether any films have been made of the play and when, and which actors starred in them.

You can use the 'Further Research' document to find some useful resources.

ANSWER KEY (STUDENT ACTIVITIES)

William Shakespeare

1 Guess

True sentences:

- Shakespeare lived over 400 years ago.
- He worked as an actor as well as writing plays.
- Many of Shakespeare's plays weren't published until after his death.

False sentences:

- He was born and grew up in the city of London. *He was born and grew up in Stratford-upon-Avon.*
- He visited America three times. *He never visited America.*
- When Shakespeare died, he was very poor. *He was very rich.*

2 Comprehension

- What** were the names of Shakespeare's parents?
John Shakespeare and Mary Arden
- Why** did so many people die from the plague?
Because there were no good doctors or medicines.
- Where** did Shakespeare go to school?
The King's New School in Stratford
- Who** was Anne Hathaway?
Shakespeare's wife
- How many** children did Shakespeare and Anne have?
Three (Susana, Hamnet and Judith)
- How long** were Shakespeare and Anne married?
34 years

3 Comprehension

- rats
- sea
- theatre
- actor
- patron
- kings

4 Comprehension and writing

- The Lord Chamberlain's men were a group of actors.
- Robert Greene was jealous because Shakespeare was very famous and successful.
- His son, Hamnet, died from plague at the age of 11.
- The Globe Theatre was round and didn't have a roof.
- They changed their name in honour of King James I.
- A collection of 36 of Shakespeare's plays was published in 1623.

5 Language

P	E	R	C	E	N	T	A	G	E
E	A	P	L	A	G	U	E	I	L
R	A	G	S	L	P	T	H	N	W
M	E	R	C	H	A	N	T	C	E
A	E	A	W	O	T	R	L	O	A
N	D	T	C	A	R	T	S	M	L
E	S	S	A	S	O	N	N	E	T
N	S	T	A	G	N	M	U	D	H
T	E	S	U	R	V	I	V	E	Y
F	A	S	C	I	N	A	T	E	D

First line of famous speech: *All the world's a stage.*

6 Follow-up activity

Answers will vary.

7 Playing detective

Answers will vary. There are many things we don't know about Shakespeare's life. Some are:

- What was his exact date of birth?
- What was his childhood like?
- What was his family life like after he got married?
- Where did he live in London?
- What did he enjoy doing in his spare time?
- Did he ever travel outside England?
- How long did it take him to write a play?
- How could he know so much about so many subjects?

8 Research and speaking

Answers will vary.