

Name: _____
 Date: _____

Subject: English 4/5
 Theme: Famous people

William Shakespeare



Born: 23 April 1564 - died: 23 April 1616

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire. He was baptised in the church of St Mary's Church, Stratford-upon-Avon, on 26 April 1564.

In his early school years he studied Latin, English, French and Italian. At the age of 18 he married a woman called Anne Hathaway, the daughter of a farmer. A year after they were married they had a daughter together and then had two sons in 1585. Very little is known about Shakespeare's activities from 1585 - 1592. During this period he went to London where he began a successful career as a playwright and actor. In his 20s and 30s he wrote his plays, his sonnets and many poems. Today, he is still popular with many audiences of all generations.

Shakespeare's most famous plays include *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Shakespeare retired to Stratford in the years before his death. He died on 23 April 1616 and was buried in the church of St Mary's Church, Stratford-upon-Avon.

The play *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is written below:

Old spelling

Qualified for some-time before,
 To dig the dirt enclosed here;
 Hence for whom it is thus named,
 And thus for her it bears my name.

Modern spelling

"Good friend, for some-time before"
 "To dig the dirt enclosed here"
 "Hence for whom it is thus named"
 "And thus for her it bears my name"