

William Shakespeare

Read the following text about William Shakespeare.

William Shakespeare was born in 1564. When he left school, he first worked for his father. His father was a glovemaker and a butcher. Nevertheless, William wanted to become a writer. He liked books.

He married Anne Hathaway in 1582. In the same year their daughter, Susanna, was born. Hamnet and Judith were born three years later. They were twins.

William wasn't very happy in Stratford. He was bored. But he loved going to the theatre. He loved talking to the actors and started dreaming of becoming an actor and of writing plays. His wife didn't like the idea very much, but when Shakespeare was 23, he decided to go to London. He became an actor and, at the same time, he wrote a lot of plays. The plays were for everybody. They were for poor people, ladies, lords, kings and queens. They all loved to see the actors, their dances, their songs, and especially their fights. These fights had to look very real. When an actor „killed“ another actor, they used sheep's


blood to make the poison's „death“ look dramatic. All the actors were men or boys. Therefore, men and boys also played female roles. During the plays, the people didn't sit still and watch. They talked to each other, they shouted, laughed and cried. They also ate during the plays.

In 1552, all the theatres in London had to close down because of a plague.

By 1602 William Shakespeare had become famous. He wrote tragedies and comedies. Many people liked his plays, also Elizabeth I, the Queen of England. Many of the plays that Shakespeare wrote are still very famous today. The most famous tragedies are „Hamlet“, „Macbeth“, „Romeo and Juliet“, „Othello“, „Julius Caesar“ and „Richard III“. Examples of his comedies are „A Midsummer Night's Dream“ and „The Merry Wives of Windsor“.

During the last years of his life Shakespeare lived in Stratford again. He died in 1616.

Fill in the facts.

Name: _____	
Born in (year): _____	
Died in (year): _____	
Father's job: _____	
Married to: _____ in _____ (year)	
Children's names: _____	
Wasn't happy in _____ and went to _____	
Became an _____ and _____	
In 1552 the theatres in London _____	
Reason: _____	
Name one of Shakespeare's tragedies: _____	
Name one of Shakespeare's comedies: _____	