

1 Do you know this man?



- 1586 He was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire
- 1582 He married Anne Hathaway
- 1585 He had become a well-known playwright and actor in London
- 1594 He began working for the Lord Chamberlain's Men, one of the two most successful performing troupes of his time
- 1597 He bought New Place, a large house in Stratford
- 1599 The Swan Theatre was built for performances by the Lord Chamberlain's Men
- 1611 He stopped to London
- 1616 He died

Using the clues to write 10 plays and several poems.

From the great amount of information given above you will probably have worked out that the man in question is William Shakespeare. Maybe you recognised him from the drawing. If not, you will be sure Shakespeare's face will 'ring' as that you were being to identify a playwright that he was not well-known enough to read.

Notes

Illustration: Courtesy of the Folger Shakespeare Library

2 Finding out about Shakespeare

Let's start by looking for some of a man who lived 400 years ago and how it looks to us now. Can you name anyone else who was alive 400 years ago? Can you give the names of any other playwrights there would be? And so the more names for some of William Shakespeare's names to people of our the world.

Let's begin by the information and the dates which you were given in the previous page. This will be useful to compare about the life of Shakespeare. Sometimes only one of being a poem together to show to hold up a more detailed picture of his life.

The first two sections to use are those that were recorded in official documents. These are:

- we know Shakespeare was born in 1564 because there is a record of the baptism of August, aged 266 days
- we know the date on which he was admitted as an actor that he would have been born a few days before the admission to London, London, on April 1564
- finally, in November 17th, 1582 in the register of the Bishop of Worcester there is a record of a special licence having been issued for the marriage of William Shakespeare and Anne Hathaway.

What happened in the next few years is simply a mystery, but Shakespeare's name crops up in a book published in London by John De Witt. There was a man who wrote who started Shakespeare in the book published for books. He was named, then, but Shakespeare had been born quite well known. Perhaps De Witt was a friend of the young artist's mother.

In 1594, William Kempe, William Shakespeare and Richard Burbage appeared in the Lord Chamberlain's men and for performing plays at the court of Queen Elizabeth I. Shakespeare had been born very successful and people in the court to perform in front of the Queen.

So you can see that's through documents, with us the record of papers that we can piece together information in order to make a picture of what Shakespeare's life had been like.

Remember, what we do have left us to guess.