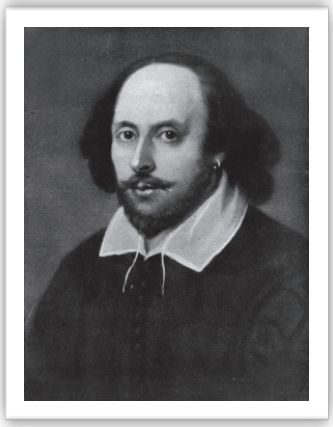
Name: _____ Subject: English

Date: _____ Sheet: Famous people

William Shakespeare



Baptised 26 April 1564 - died 23 April 1616

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire. Noone knows when he was born but the records of Stratford's Holy Trinity Church say he was baptised on 26 April 1564.

In his early school years he studied maths, religion, literature and Latin. 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 twins 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 an actor and writer. In his lifetime he wrote 38 plays, 154 sonnets and many poems. Today, his plays still excite audiences of all nationalities.

Shakespeare's most famous plays include Macbeth, Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet and Julius Caesar.

Shakespeare retired to Stratford a few years before his death. He died on 23 April 1616. He was buried at the Holy Trinity Church two days after his death.

The epitaph written on Shakespeare's stone slab is written below:

Old spelling:

Good frend for Iesvs sake forbeare,
To digg the dvst encloased heare.
Bleste be ye man yt spares thes stones,
And cvrst be he yt moves my bones.

Modern spelling:

"Good friend, for Jesus' sake forbear,"
"To dig the dust enclosed here."
"Blessed be the man that spares these stones,"
"And cursed be he who moves my bones."

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Score 7

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William Shakespeare Questions

Answer the following questions:

1. When was William Shakespeare baptised?

_____

2. Where was Shakespeare born?

_____

3. How old was Shakespeare when he married Anne Hathaway?

_____

4. How many children did they have?

a 2 **c** 3

b 1 **d** 4

5. How many plays did Shakespeare write?

_____

6. Write down three of Shakespeare's most famous plays.

_____

7. Read the epitaph written above Shakespeare's grave. In your own words describe what you think it means.

_____

_____

_____

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