

William Shakespeare



William Shakespeare is England most famous writer and poet. He is born in a small town, Stratford-upon-Avon, on April 23rd, in 1564 the third of eight children. His father is a merchant. He starts school in Stratford



Shakespeare's birth place

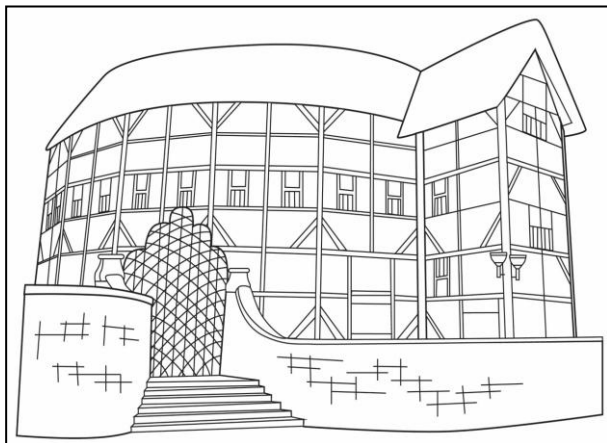
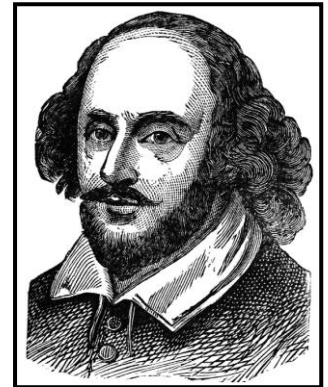
when he is seven years old. He studies Latin. The school day is very long.

In the summer, lessons start at six o'clock

in the morning and finish at five o'clock in the afternoon.

Shakespeare leaves school when he is thirteen.

William Shakespeare is the only member of his family that can read and write! In 1582 he moves to London and he works as an actor.



Then, he starts to write plays. He becomes very rich and successful. When King James comes to the throne in 1603, he chooses Shakespeare's group of actors to become "The King's Men".

In 1599 Shakespeare builds a theatre on the River Thames: '*The Globe*'.

It is here that many of his plays are performed.

Elisabeth I is a fan of Shakespeare.

In 1610 he buys a large house in Stratford and he retires.

He dies here on April 23rd, 1616

Today visitors to London can watch Shakespeare's plays at the restored Globe Theatre.

Shakespeare wrote 38 plays and 154 sonnets.

Famous tragedies: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Othello*

Famous comedies: *A Midsummer night's dream*, *The Tempest*.

His plays have been translated in several languages.

