

Shakespeare Notes

Biography

Biography



- A. Born in 1564/Died April 23, 1616 (rumored to be his birthday)
- B. Born in Stratford-upon-Avon
- C. Thought to have attended Stratford Grammar School (he left school at the age of fifteen and never pursued further formal education)

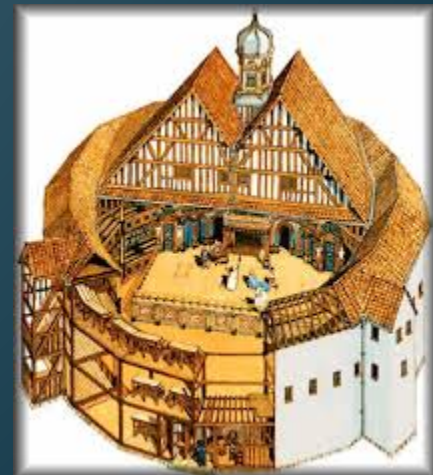
Biography



- D. Married Anne Hathaway at the age of eighteen (she was eight years older)
- 1. She gave birth to his first daughter **six** months later.
- 2. Two years later they had twins (one of which was a son who dies at eleven
- 3. Five years after his marriage to Anne Hathaway Shakespeare moved to London

Biography

- E. Began working at the Globe Theatre
- F. He first appeared as a poet in 1593 with “Venus” and “Adonis”
- G. 36 of Shakespeare’s 38 plays were published in the 1st Folio of 1623
- H. Retired in 1611 and moved back to Stratford



Biography

- I. Buried in the Church of the Holy Trinity in 1616
- 1. Died after an evening's drinking with some theatre friends

- 2. Gravestone says:

“Good frend for Jesus sake forebe

To dig the dust enclosed heare,

Bleste be ye man yt spares these stones,

And curst be he yt moves my bones.

- J. Bard of Avon=poet of Avon



Shakespeare's World



- A. Elizabethan Age
 - 1. Queen Elizabeth I
 - 2. Great Virgin Queen/ruled 1558-1603
- B. Age of Discovery
 - 1. Pursuit of scientific knowledge and the exploration of human nature
 - 2. Assumptions concerning feudalism openly challenged (optimism concerning humanity)

Poetry Techniques

- Form
 - Caesura - a break, esp. a sense pause, usually near the middle of a verse, and marked in scansion by a double vertical line, as in *know then thyself || presume not God to scan.*
 - End stopped line
 - Enjambment - the running on of the thought from one line, couplet, or stanza to the next without a syntactical break.
 - I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

Poetry Techniques

- Incremental repetition
- Stanza
 - Couplet - a pair of successive lines of verse, esp. a pair that rhyme and are of the same length.
 - Heroic couplet - a stanza consisting of two rhyming lines in iambic pentameter, esp. one forming a rhetorical unit and written in an elevated style, as, *Know then thyself, presume not God to scan / The proper study of Mankind is Man.*

Shakespeare's World

- C. Shakespeare's works deal with civil harmony, either restoring or maintaining it
 1. War of the Roses (Lancaster v. York)
- D. The Reformation
 1. England is a Protestant/Anglican country
 2. Continuous religious strife
 3. Queen Margaret/"Bloody Mary"=Catholic sister of Elizabeth



Shakespeare's World

- E. The Renaissance

1. The cultural rebirth of Europe (14th-17th centuries)

2. Based on the rediscovery of the literature of Greece and Rome

3. Music of Shakespeare=Baroque

- a. Strings, woodwinds and brass

- b. Vivaldi, Bach, Handel, Corelli



III. The Globe Theatre

- A. Shakespeare's Globe Theatre was built in 1598 in the Bankside district of London
- B. Open-air octagonal amphitheater that could seat up to 3000
- C. All shows occurred during the day (no lighting)
- D. No scene changes (props and costumes used)



The Globe Theatre

- E. The “pit” is the floor surrounding the stage where “one-penny” spectators stood
- F. Brought together social elite and common drunks
- G. “Principal Actors”
 1. Richard Burbage=most significant tragedian of Elizabethan stage
 2. Initiated performances of “Hamlet, Lear, and Othello
 3. Shakespeare wrote many tragic hero roles with Burbage in mind
 4. Will Kemp=leading comic actor
 5. Shakespeare as an actor=do not over-estimate, playwright and producer take precedence

The Globe Theatre

- H. 1613 the Globe Theatre burned down
 1. Thought to be caused by a canon in a performance of *Henry VII*
- I. New Globe built and operated until 1642
 1. Puritans closed it down
 2. 1644 the Globe was torn down by Cromwell's orders and tenements were constructed
- J. The new Globe Theatre opened in May 1997 by Queen Elizabeth