



# Introduction to William Shakespeare and the Elizabethan Era

Shakespeare facts,  
housing, relevancy,  
common phrases, and  
cultural preview

# Shakespeare's House

## Furnishings-

- canopy over the bed kept animal droppings off of the people
- the mattress had to be tightened on occasion, which led to the phrase, "Sleep tight."

## Building Materials-

- Tudor type houses with vertical timbers and → whitewashed mortar
- Thatched roofs... they often caught fire!



# The Interior of Shakespeare's House



They used fabric to decorate the walls



Canopy →

Here are the ropes to "tighten the bed"



# Anne Hathaway's Cottage



Thatch roof- made of straw... darkened from sun fading

# The Interior of Anne Hathaway's Cottage



This instrument warmed the bed →

This instrument tightened the ropes on the bed



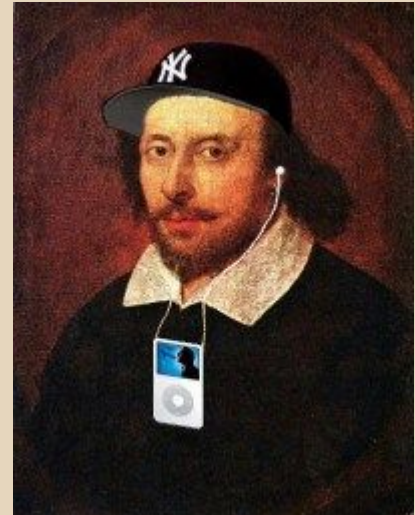
They would throw leftovers in this pot and eat whatever → was in there for 7 days.



They made their ← bowls, spoons, etc... by hand

# Why We Still Read Shakespeare...

- We can use it as a mentor text! Shakespeare was the best at:
  1. Developing compelling characters
  2. Using figurative language to make a piece “come alive”
  3. Connecting to his audience
  4. Using poetic devices (sound devices) to capture the reader’s attention (ie. repetition, rhyme scheme, assonance, etc...)
- It has difficult vocabulary to challenge us as readers
- His themes are still relatable



# Types of Shakespearean Plays

## \*Comedies

- Twelfth Night
- As you like it
- The Tempest
- The Taming of the Shrew

## \*Tragedies

- Romeo and Juliet
- Hamlet
- Othello
- Julius Caesar

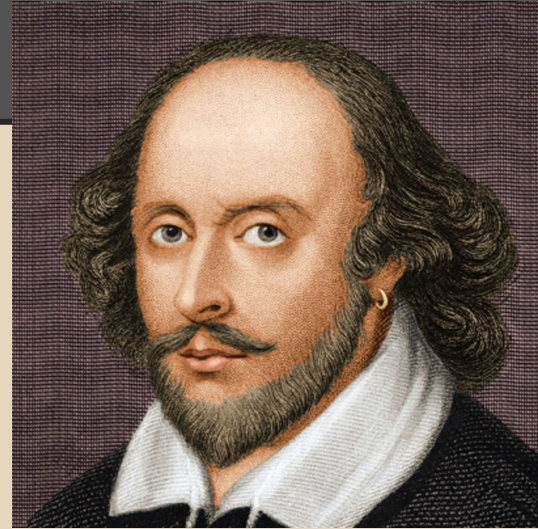
## \*Histories

- Henry V
- Richard III



# Important Shakespeare Facts

- Born in 1564 (1500's)
- From Stratford-upon-Avon, England (90 miles from London)
- Married Anne Hathaway and had 5 children
- Joined a traveling theater group and became very successful
- Wrote many sonnets too
- considered the greatest writer in the English language.





# The Globe Theater (Reconstruction)

- Built in 1599
- Held 3,000 people
- Circular in nature, hence the name
- People could pay 1 penny to sit in the pit (ground level)
- the 1st one burned down
- You can go there and see a play still today



# Theater Facts

- Elizabethan theaters attracted both the rich and the poor
- Audience was a rowdy bunch- they threw rotten vegetables at the cast, sounded trumpets, booed, cheered, etc...
- ONLY MEN Acted, so they played the part of females too
- Hardly any props, curtains, or lighting was used, but they made up for it in elaborate costumes.



# Shakespeare Quotes Still in Use Today

**“Break the ice”**

**“Dead as a doornail”**

**“Eaten me out of house and home”**

**“For goodness' sake”**

**“Heart of gold”**

**“In a pickle”**

**“Kill with kindness”**

**“Knock knock! Who's there?”**

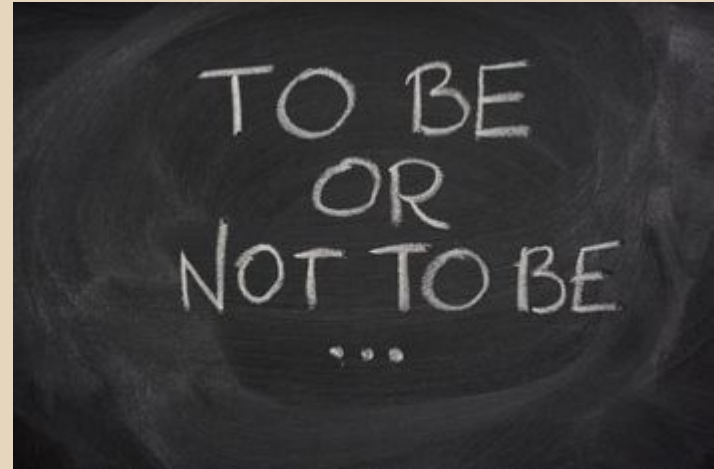
**“[What] a piece of work”**

**“Seen better days”**

**“Too much of a good thing”**

**“What the dickens”**

**“Wild-geese chase”**



# Elizabethan Era

## Food-

\*Poor-bread, fish, cheese and ale

\*rich-lamb, beef, mutton, pork, bacon, veal, rabbit, hare, and fowl such as peacock, swan, goose, blackbirds and pigeon

## Clothes-

## Poor

\*Purple was the color of the rich because the dye was so expensive.



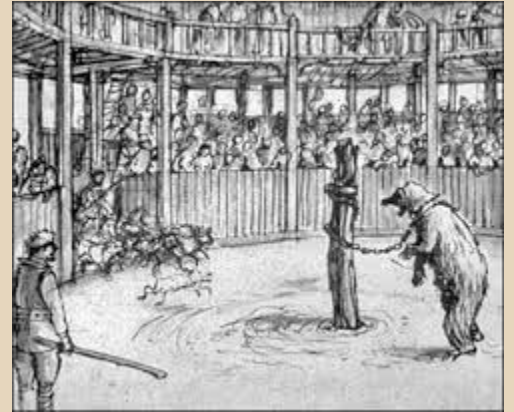
## Rich



# Elizabethan Era

## Entertainment

1. Fairs and festivals
2. Jousting tournaments
3. Hunting
4. Sports such as hammer throwing, wrestling, and archery
5. Bear and bull baiting
6. Plays



## Culture

- So much was centered around the queen (Queen Elizabeth)!
- It was the time of the Renaissance - new ideas in science and literature
- Women were subservient to men

# Language- Early Modern English

Era	Approximate Time Period
Old English  “Fæder ure þu þe eart on heofonum; Si þin nama gehalgod to becume þin rice gewurpe ðin willa on eorðan swa swa on heofonum.”	450–1066
Middle English  “Oure fadir that art in heuenes, halewid be thi name; thi kyndoom come to; be thi wille don in erthe as in heuene.”	1066–1450
Early Modern English  “Our father which art in heauen, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdome come. Thy will be done, in earth, as it is in heauen.”	1450–1690 (SHAKESPEARE'S TIME)
Modern English  “Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.”	1690–Present

# Shakespeare's Resting Place- Church of the Holy Trinity

“Blessed be the man that spares these stones, and cursed be he that moves my bones.”



GOOD FRIEND FOR IESVS SAKE FORBEARE,  
TO DIGG THE DVFT ENCLOSED HEARE:  
BLESTE BE Y MAN Y SHINES THES STONES,  
AND CVRST BE HE Y MOVES MY BONES,

THE GRAVE  
OF THE POET  
WILLIAM  
SHAKESPEARE  
1564-1616