

Let's talk about ...  
**Shakespeare**



Look at the picture showing a scene from a famous play by William Shakespeare. Which type of play do you think it is, a comedy or tragedy? What do you think the play is about?



The play appears to be a tragedy. It looks like the man on his knee is talking to someone wearing a suit of armor, so perhaps there is a battle in the play.



A suit of armor

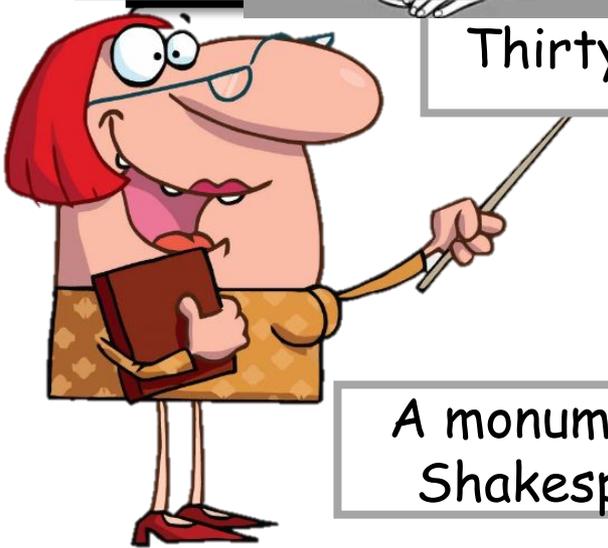




Globe Theatre  
in London

Who exactly was he?  
What did Shakespeare write?

1593 "The Comedy of Errors"  
1595 "Romeo and Juliet"  
"A Midsummer Night's Dream"  
"Julius Caesar"

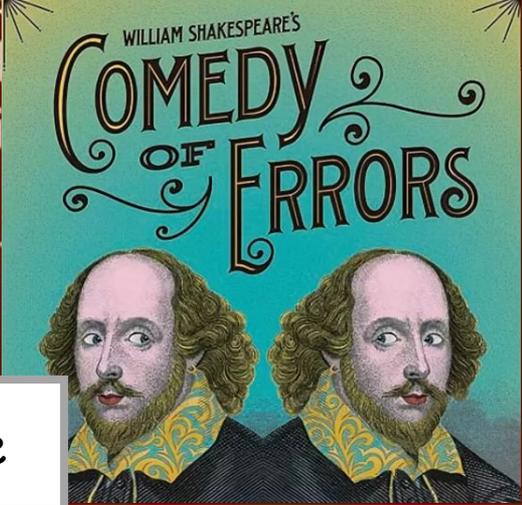


Thirty

A monument  
to Shakespeare



3,000 people



Before reading learn new words.

кровавый

простой

судьба

сжигать

обман

судьба

вознаграждение

маскироваться

вмещать

ошибаться

путаница

плоть

ростовщик

купец

отдавать долг

показывать

правление

копия

месть

крыша

торговец

править



### Who exactly was he?

William Shakespeare was an English poet and **playwright** during Elizabethan times (the time of the **reign** of Queen Elizabeth I). He was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, a town in the centre of England. He is the greatest writer in the English language.

### What did Shakespeare write?

Shakespeare wrote thirty-eight plays, all of which in his comedies were mix-ups, **mistaking one person for another** or women who **disguise themselves** as men – although the actors were all men anyway! In *The Merchant of Venice*, a well-known comedy, a **moneylender** asks for a **pound of flesh** from a **merchant** who can't pay him back some money! Life was hard during Elizabethan times and Shakespeare's tragedies **reflect** this, such as *Hamlet*, which is very bloody and is about **revenge, deception** and **fate**.

### Where were his plays performed and who went to see them?

Most of Shakespeare's plays were performed at the Globe Theatre in London, which could **hold** about 3,000 people, some seated but most standing. Elizabethans of all social classes enjoyed going to the Globe, even though it was noisy and smelly and the common people had to watch the play standing up in front of the stage. As there was no roof, people got very wet when it rained! There was hardly any scenery, but there were fantastic costumes and even special effects such as fireworks, smoke and actors 'flying'. The original theatre burnt down in 1613, but a modern **replica** opened in 1997.

\* poems with a fixed pattern of lines, syllables and rhymes

Read again and decide if the sentences are True, False or Not stated.  
Correct the false statements.

False

1

His plays are performed and studied all over the world.

Not stated

2

Shakespeare earned a lot of money.

False

3

'Romeo and Juliet' is a tragedy.

True

4

There weren't any women actors in his plays.

True

5

Shakespeare's plays showed what life was like in Elizabethan times.

False

6

The common people had to watch the play standing up in front of the stage.

Not stated

7

The actors designed their own costumes.

True

8

The original Globe Theatre was destroyed by fire.

Match the words in bold to their meanings.

маскироваться	→	the period of time a queen/king rules a kingdom
драматург	→	thinking sb is sb else
ростовщик	→	change their appearance
царствование	→	person who lends other people money for a fee
фунт мяса	→	piece of the body
показывать	→	trader
обман	→	show
купец	→	hurting someone who has hurt you
мечь	→	lies
вмещать (людей)	→	destiny
точная копия	→	fit
судьба	→	copy

What did you find most interesting in the text? Write a few sentences. Read your sentences to your partner.



*I was surprised to read that The Globe Theatre could hold 3,000 people and that the audience was made up of people from all classes of society.*



- 1593 "The Comedy of Errors"
- 1595 "Romeo and Juliet"
- 1596 "A Midsummer Night's Dream"
- 1599 "Julius Caesar"
- 1600 "As You Like It"
- 1600 "Twelfth Night"
- 1601 "Hamlet"
- 1603 "All's Well That Ends Well"
- 1604 "Othello"
- 1606 "King Lear"
- 1606 "Macbeth"

Collect information about a famous writer from your country. Write a short text. Write:

- date/place of birth
- what he/she wrote
- what he/she usually wrote about
- other interesting information



Color by Klimbin

*Leo Tolstoy was born in 1928 in Russia. Born into an aristocratic family, his influence in society was great. He wrote many novels and essays in his lifetime. Many of his works are about 19th century Russian life and the Russian aristocracy. His writings on history, society and religion have influenced many other great writers and thinkers. He is considered by many as one of the greatest novelists of all time. His novels 'War and Peace' and 'Anna Karenina' are popular worldwide and are considered masterpieces of literature.*