

William Shakespeare



William Shakespeare's Family

William Shakespeare is thought to have been born on 23rd April, 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. William was the third child of John and Mary Shakespeare.

Fascinating Facts

- At the age of 18, William married Anne Hathaway.
- They had a daughter called Susanna in 1583.
- Two years later, Anne gave birth to twins - a boy called Hamnet and a girl called Judith. Hamnet died when he was 11 years old.
- William moved to London where he earned money as an actor and a playwright.

A playwright is someone who writes plays – stories that can be acted out on a stage for people to come and watch.



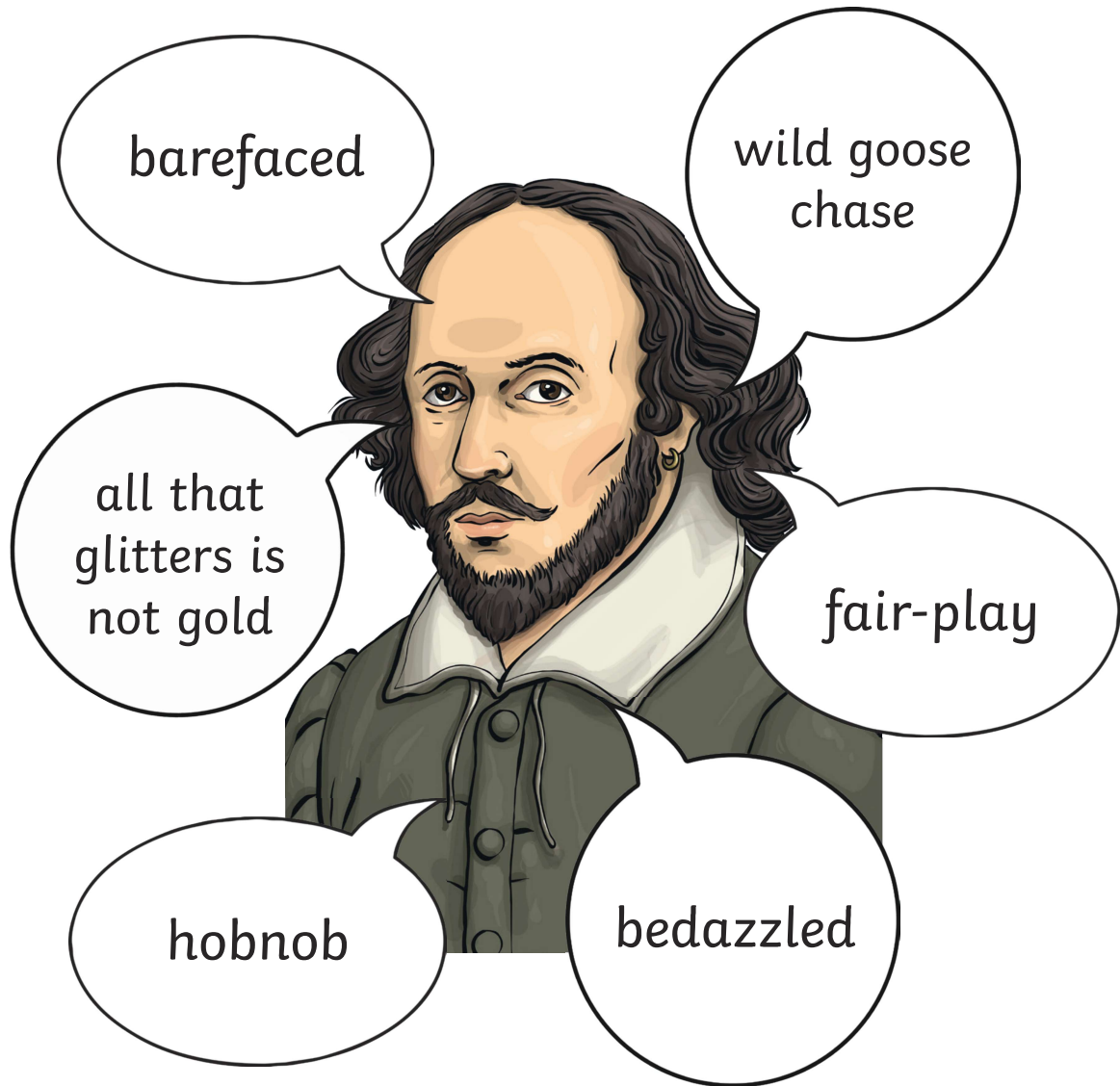
Shakespeare's Plays

Shakespeare wrote plays which were tragedies (very sad plays) and comedies, which were funny. He wrote the plays about things people had experienced: jealousy, anger, love, romance, religion and war.

Some of his most famous plays have been turned into cartoons and films. For example, Romeo and Juliet was made into a film, and later a cartoon about two garden gnomes!

Shakespeare's Words

Shakespeare made up over three hundred words and well-known phrases in the English language. Here are some:



William Shakespeare died on April 23rd 1616, which was the same day as his birthday, at the age of 52.

It is thought that he died from a fever.

Each year around the 23rd April, the streets of Stratford-upon-Avon are filled with music, song and performers in celebration of the life of William Shakespeare.

Questions

1. What was the name of William Shakespeare's wife? Tick one.

Judith ☐ Anne ☐ Mary ☐ Susanna ☐

2. Match the sentences.

Shakespeare lived

in 1583.

Susanna was born

in Stratford.

Hamnet died

aged 11.

3. What themes did Shakespeare write about? Tick two.

making money ☐ jealousy ☐ shopping ☐ love ☐

4. Summarise what the paragraph in the green box is about.

5. Tick the answer that is a name of one of Shakespeare's plays.

Beauty and the Beast ☐ Romeo and Juliet ☐ Peppa Pig ☐ The Haunted House ☐

6. Choose one of the words which Shakespeare made up and use a dictionary to find out what it means.

Word: _____

Definition: _____

7. What is unusual about the day that Shakespeare died? Tick one.

It was the same day Hamnet died. ☐ It was the day he left London. ☐

It was the day before a play was performed. ☐ It was the same day as his birthday. ☐

8. True or False? Around the 23rd April, Shakespeare's birthday is celebrated in Stratford.

True ☐ False ☐