

We are a Shakespeare Week Partner!



William Shakespeare Fact Pack

William Shakespeare is England's most loved poet and regarded as the greatest writer in the English language. To celebrate Shakespeare's birthday on the **23rd April** and **Shakespeare Week** in March we have created this special information pack for your pupils.

Included in this pack is:

- A short bio about Shakespeare's life
- Facts and rumours about Shakespeare
- Shakespeare match-up game
- A timeline of Shakespeare's plays
- A Shakespeare wordsearch
- Sonnet workshop
- Colouring page
- Shake-up Shakespeare entry form
- Answer sheet



Please feel free to photocopy our Shakespeare pack or go to our website to download the individual information sheets:
www.youngwriters.co.uk/fact-pack-shakespeare.org.uk

For more information on Shakespeare week please visit www.shakespeareweek.org.uk

William Shakespeare

Short Bio

William Shakespeare, (baptised on 26th April 1564, died 23rd April 1616) was an English poet and playwright widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language. He is often called the 'Bard of Avon'.

His surviving works include 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems and several other poems. His plays are performed more often than any other playwright and have been translated into every major language.

Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon. When he was 18 he married Anne Hathaway who was much older. They went on to have three children: Susanna, Hamnet and Judith (who were twins). His successful career took off in 1585 – 1592 where he was an actor, writer and part owned a company of actors called Lord Chamberlain's Men, which was later known as The King's Men. Around 1613 Shakespeare is thought to have retired back to Stratford at the age of 49. He died three years later.



William Shakespeare

Facts & Rumours

Below we have listed a few fascinating facts all about Shakespeare. There are many mysteries surrounding the life of William Shakespeare and some of these facts are true facts but some are based on rumours.

- The actual date of Shakespeare's birthday is unknown but 23rd April has been generally used, which is the same day as St George's Day.
- Shakespeare's date of death is also unknown! This has also been given the date of 23rd April.
- Shakespeare was married on 28th November 1582 to Anne Hathaway.
- Anne Hathaway was already three months pregnant when they married.
- Shakespeare's family were all illiterate, and many people thought Shakespeare did not write his own work because of this.
- Most of his plays were only published seven years after Shakespeare's death. Shakespeare never published any of his plays.
- There was never a portrait taken of Shakespeare when he was alive so to this day we don't really know what he looked like!
- All of Shakespeare's grandchildren have died and he has no living descendants.
- Father of William Shakespeare, John Shakespeare, was the mayor of Stratford where William was born.
- Shakespeare is rumoured to be the father of an illegitimate son, William Davenant!
- Shakespeare's company The King's Men built the Globe Theatre (see below).



William Shakespeare

Famous Quotes

“To be, or not to be: that is the question” :

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**“O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore
art thou Romeo?” :**

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“’Tis neither here nor there” :

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“It is the east, and Juliet is the sun” :

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“We have seen better days” :

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“Having nothing, nothing can he lose” :

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**“Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your
ears; I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him” :**

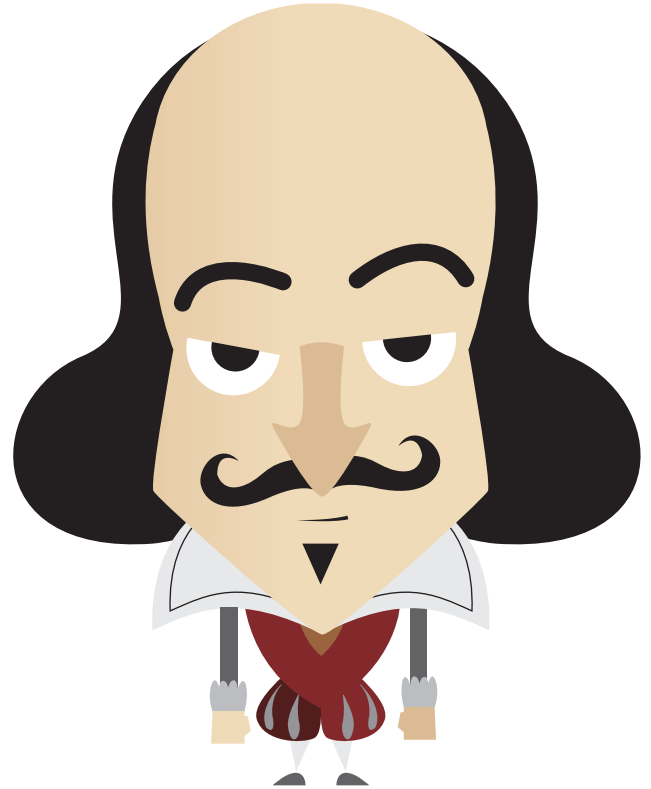
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**“Double, double toil and trouble; Fire
burn, and cauldron bubble.” :**

.....

**“If you prick us, do we not bleed? If
you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you
poison us, do we not die? And if you
wrong us, shall we not revenge?” :**

.....



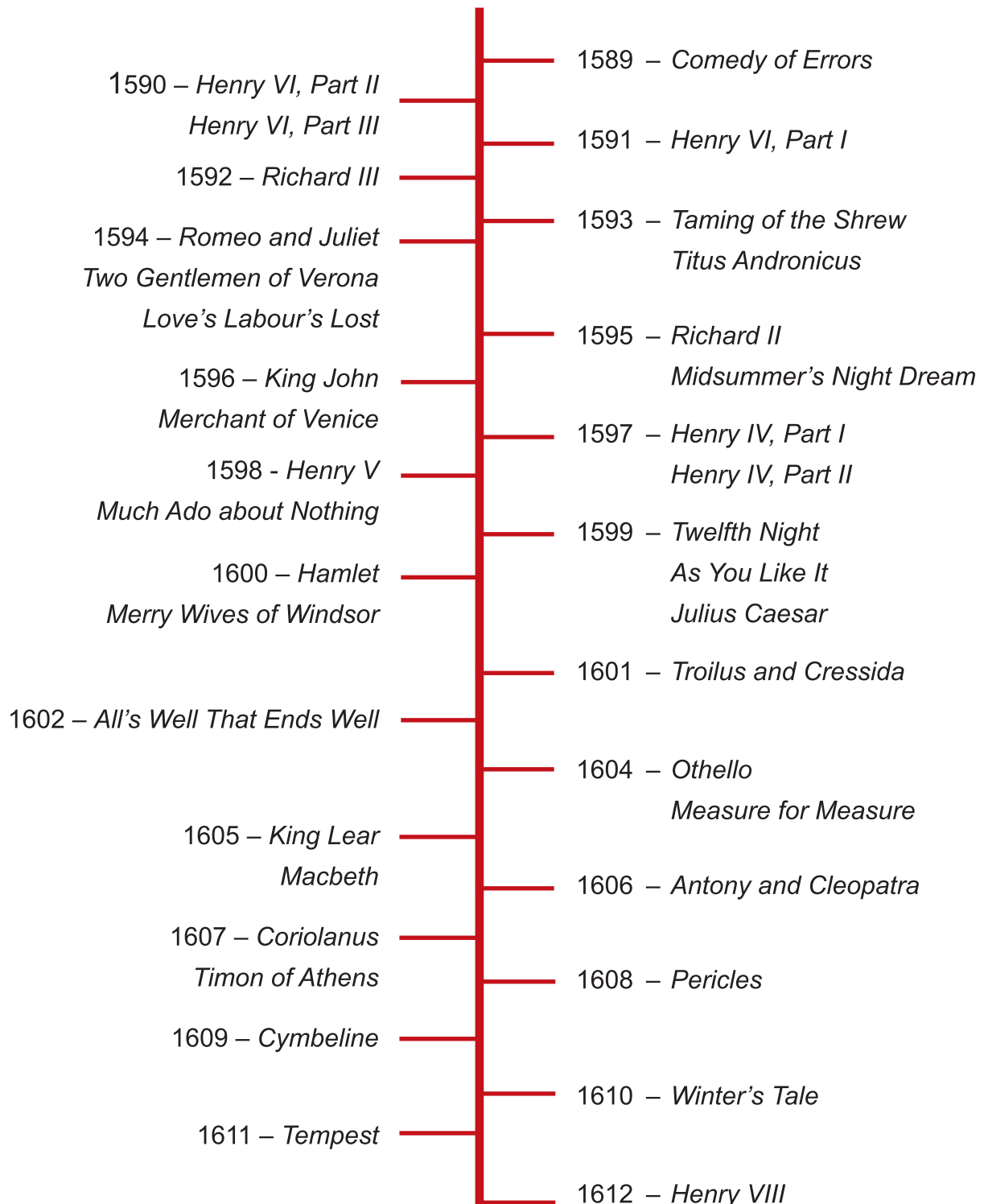
**Match these famous plays of
Shakespeare to the correct
quotes to the left. Some plays
may be used more than once:**

- **Romeo and Juliet**
- **Hamlet**
- **Macbeth**
- **The Merchant of Venice**
- **Julius Caesar**
- **Othello**
- **Timon of Athens**
- **Henry VI, Part III**

William Shakespeare

Timeline of plays

“Born” 23rd April 1564



“Died” – 23rd April 1616

Shakespeare Wordsearch

Can you find all 15 words about William Shakespeare? Have a competition with your classmates; see who can find all 15 first!

W	A	G	R	T	H	E	K	I	N	G	S	M	E	N	H	Y	U
K	I	N	G	J	O	H	N	S	E	T	F	A	L	H	F	J	Z
Z	C	L	B	M	T	X	R	W	Q	V	L	C	R	C	E	U	I
I	K	O	L	W	Q	H	S	F	R	X	T	B	T	K	T	L	B
A	W	S	X	I	D	C	E	T	Y	U	P	E	O	L	W	I	C
S	F	H	J	O	A	O	A	T	B	C	L	T	D	R	E	U	W
O	F	G	Y	J	E	M	N	H	E	M	A	H	I	Z	L	S	Q
N	A	V	B	E	C	E	S	D	A	M	E	K	F	G	F	C	U
N	H	I	K	J	L	D	N	H	R	E	P	I	W	N	T	A	M
E	Z	W	Q	Z	R	Y	U	B	A	U	W	E	R	Y	H	E	U
T	P	O	I	S	O	N	E	Y	X	K	P	A	S	K	N	S	I
S	Q	R	B	S	A	R	E	A	G	V	E	R	L	T	I	A	Y
Z	X	P	L	A	Y	S	M	N	C	L	S	S	D	F	G	R	J
A	B	T	U	E	Q	L	J	E	G	R	W	Z	P	Q	H	Y	I
W	B	R	O	M	E	O	A	N	D	J	U	L	I	E	T	R	U
P	H	N	M	S	A	D	I	B	U	O	P	L	P	W	A	S	E
S	H	S	C	Y	P	K	M	R	E	N	W	J	A	H	E	R	I
V	Q	X	A	W	O	G	L	O	B	E	T	H	E	A	T	R	E

Romeo and Juliet
Hamlet
William Shakespeare
Macbeth
Poison

Julius Caesar
Globe Theatre
Comedy
The Kings Men
King Lear

Sonnets
King John
Twelfth Night
The Tempest
Plays



Sonnet Workshop *for pupils*



'What is a sonnet?' The sonnet is a poem with three important elements that tell us clearly that it is a sonnet:

It has 14 lines.

Each line has 10 syllables.

It is a rhyming poem, with a strict rhyme pattern.

The two most well-known forms of sonnet are the English (or Shakespearean sonnet) and the Italian (or Petrarchan sonnet). Shakespeare popularised the English sonnet and Petrarch was the first major writer of the Italian sonnet. Sonnets are generally written in iambic pentameter.

Iambic pentameter means each line has 10 syllables. Syllables mean a division of words. For example when you say 'cat' you are using 1 syllable, 'water' you are using 2: wat-er; 'forever' is three syllables for-ev-er; and so on. A way of remembering iambic pentameter is to say out loud: ti-tum, ti-tum, ti-tum, ti-tum, ti-tum. So the opening to a sonnet could be: Scribbler! Oh what joy you can find in here.

So remember, a sonnet has 14 lines and 10 syllables and don't forget to pay attention to the rhyme pattern!

Lines 1 and 3	Rhyme A
Lines 2 and 4	Rhyme B
Lines 5 and 7	Rhyme C
Lines 6 and 8	Rhyme D
Lines 9 and 11	Rhyme E
Lines 10 and 12	Rhyme F
Lines 13 and 14	Rhyme G



Tip

Having trouble with syllables?
How about shortening words?

For example:
it is – it's
every – ev'ry
about – 'bout

Sonnet Workshop *for pupils*



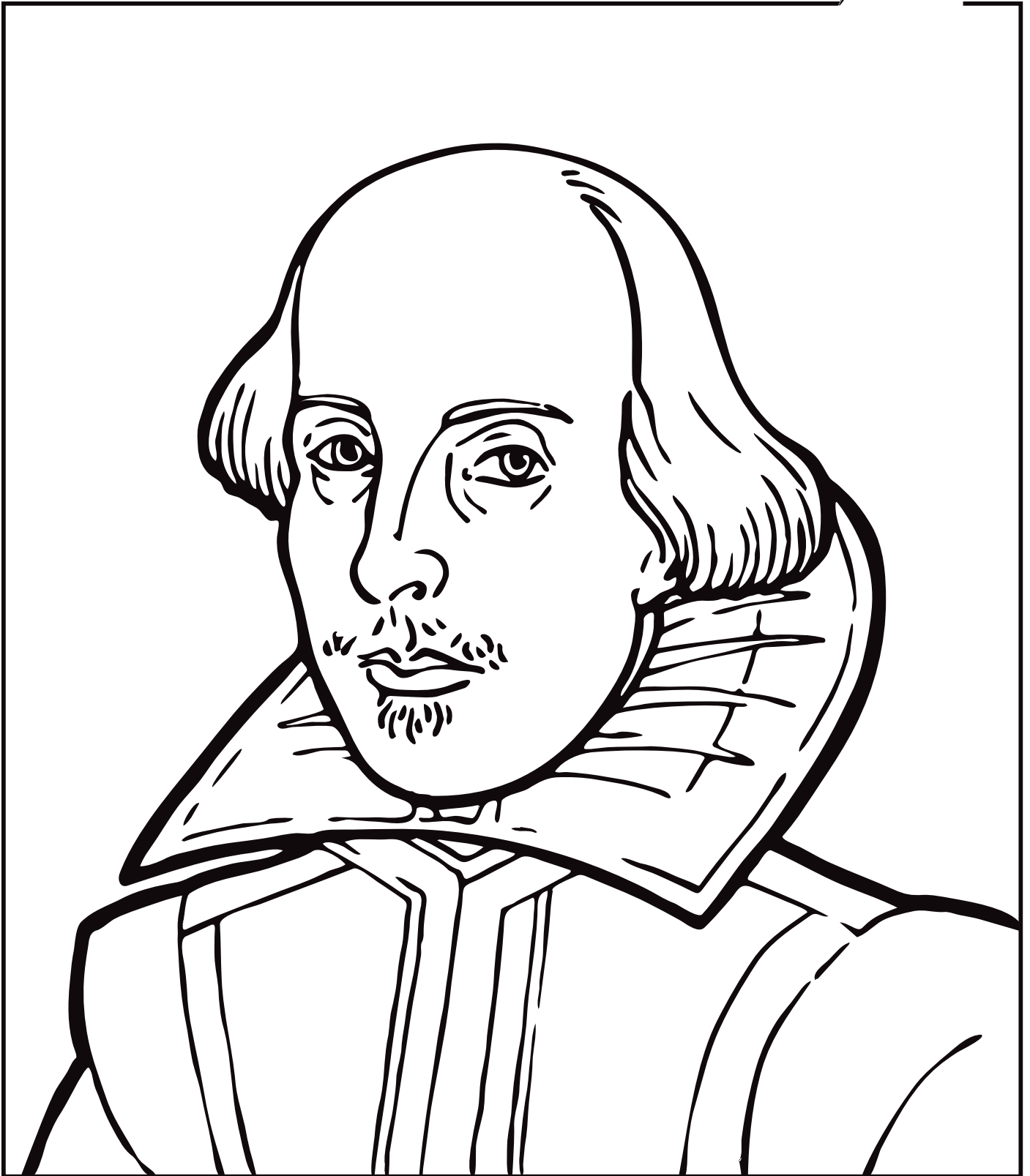
Take a look at our sonnet for an example ...

Scribbler! Oh what a joy you can find here	(A)
Eric is the one that heads the great team	(B)
Full of poems, stories and happy cheer	(A)
Hopefully it will make our readers gleam	(B)
Bernard's Grammar is full of homework help	(C)
Guest authors revealing secrets galore	(D)
While the tricky puzzles will make you yelp	(C)
There is no way Scribbler! will make you snore	(D)
Lord Oscar starts a tale needing an end	(E)
Fancy a challenge? Puzzle Time is here	(F)
Bizzy picks the great pictures you all send	(E)
Ev'ry issue's jam-packed, let's give a cheer	(F)
How 'bout finding Eric hidden away	(G)
Jump on the Scribbler! wagon, come and play!	(G)

**Send your completed sonnet to us and we'll enter it
into our 'Shake-up Shakespeare' competition!**

Get Arty!

Colour, paint or decorate this portrait of
Shakespeare however you like!



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Bonacia Ltd Company Number: 05368980

Shake-up Shakespeare



Poem Title:

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To celebrate Shakespeare Day on **23rd April 2014** and **Shakespeare Week** in March we would love to hear your poems inspired by Shakespeare. Selected poets will have their work published and also be in with a chance of winning a selection of Shakespeare-themed books. (See our website for further details!)

Send your entry to: **'Shake-up Shakespeare', Young Writers, Remus House, Coltsfoot Drive, Peterborough, PE2 9BF. Email: info@youngwriters.co.uk.**

Closing Date: 9th May 2014

I would like to submit a poem for Shake-up Shakespeare:

Name Surname Age

Address

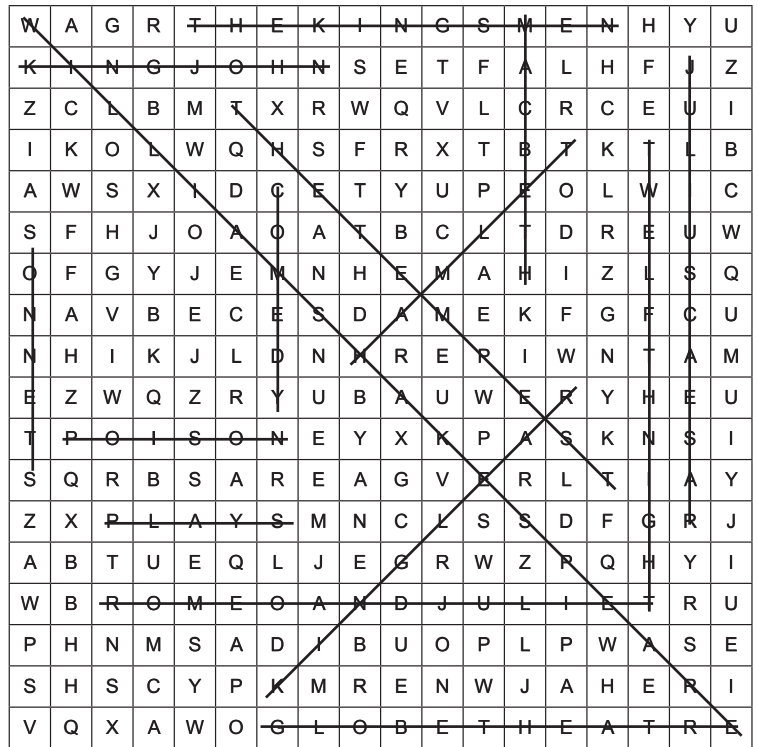
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..... Postcode

Answer Sheet

Wordsearch Answers

Romeo And Juliet
Hamlet
William Shakespeare
Macbeth
Poison
Julius Caesar
Globe Theatre
Comedy
The Kings Men
King Lear
Sonnets
King John
Twelfth Night
The Tempest
Plays



Famous Quotes Answers

“To be, or not to be: that is the question”
 – *Hamlet*

“O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?”
 – *Romeo and Juliet*

“‘Tis neither here nor there.”
 – *Othello*

“It is the east, and Juliet is the sun”
 – *Romeo and Juliet*

“We have seen better days”
 – *Timon of Athens*

“Having nothing, nothing can he lose”
 – *King Henry VI, Part III*

“Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears; I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him”
 – *Julius Caesar*

“Double, double toil and trouble; Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.”
 – *Macbeth*

“If you prick us, do we not bleed? if you tickle us, do we not laugh? if you poison us, do we not die? and if you wrong us, shall we not revenge?”
 – *The Merchant of Venice*





Young Writers

Young Writers aim to encourage young people to engage in creative writing. We have worked with schools, parents and young writers for over 20 years by doing the following:

- Running national poetry and creative writing competitions through schools
- Providing resources to teachers to aid them in teaching Young Writers
- Providing poetry and creative writing workshops for Young Writers

Our website – **www.youngwriters.co.uk** – hosts a variety of lesson plans and workshops for children as well as recommending books, publishing children's reviews, winners' section, author interviews and much more! We have a blog that features all sorts of literary news, as well as provide more information about Young Writers in general. Visit the news section of our website to read our blog.

We welcome feedback, suggestions and comments from teachers, parents and young writers – please feel free to give us a call on **01733 890066** or drop us an email info@youngwriters.co.uk.

We hope you have enjoyed using our free resource pack. If you would like to send any of your pupils poetry, stories or mini sagas to us, for consideration for publication, please send them to FREEPOST RSLY-AUJA-RAHY, Young Writers PS, Remus House, Coltsfoot Drive, Peterborough PE2 9BF.



For more information on Shakespeare week please visit: www.shakespeareweek.org.uk