

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

William Shakespeare, often called the English national poet, is the greatest dramatist of all time.

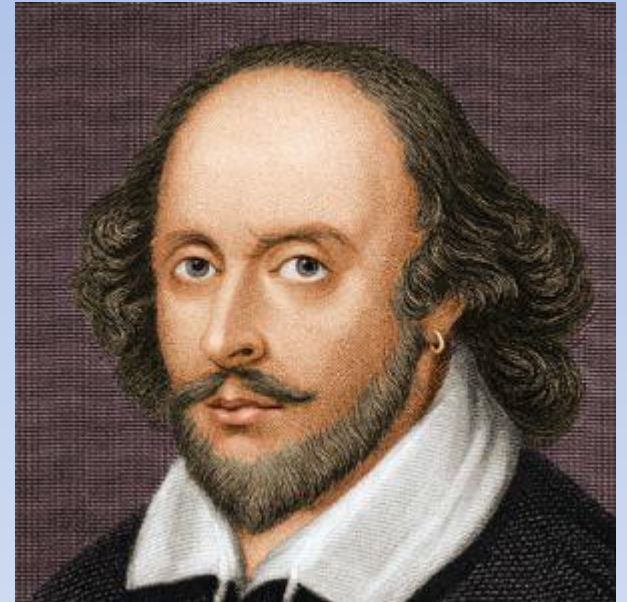
It is believed he was born on or near April 23, 1564.

William was the third child of John Shakespeare, and Mary Arden. William had two older sisters, Joan and Judith, and three younger brothers, Gilbert, Richard and Edmund.

William Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway on November 28, 1582. He had three children Susanna, Hamnet and Judith.

By 1592 William Shakespeare earned a living as an actor and a playwright in London and possibly had several plays produced.

By the early 1590s, William Shakespeare was a managing partner in the Lord Chamberlain's Men, an acting company in London.

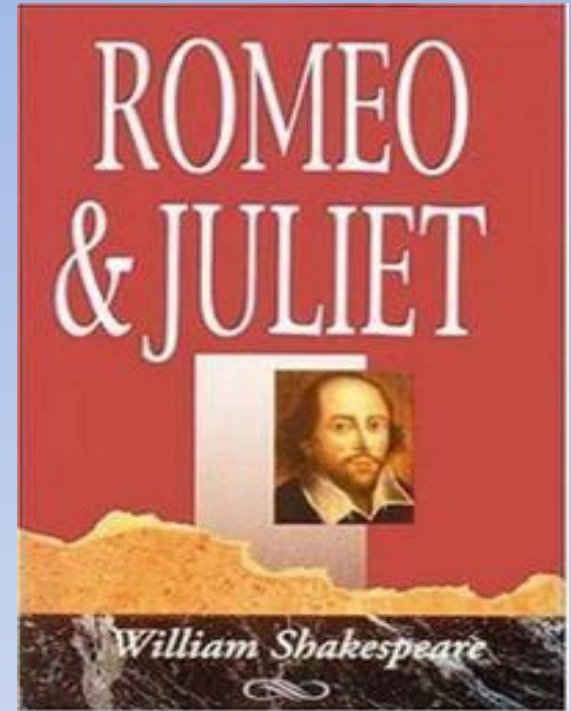


Shakespeare wrote several comedies during his early period: the witty romance *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the romantic *Merchant of Venice*, the wit and wordplay of *Much Ado About Nothing*, the charming *As You Like It* and *Twelfth Night*. Other plays, possibly written before 1600, include *Titus Andronicus*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Taming of the Shrew* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*.

He wrote the tragedies *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *Othello* and *Macbeth*.

In William Shakespeare's final period, he wrote several tragicomedies. Among these are *Cymbeline*, *The Winter's Tale* and *The Tempest*.

William Shakespeare died on his birthday, April 23, 1616.



JOHN KOLONIS