

What we know:

1. A royal person watched Shakespeare's plays and made him famous.

False: Shakespeare became famous on his own, as everybody from nobles to commoners enjoyed his relatable plays. However King James I enjoyed the company's plays so much that he gave them a patent to perform. Also, he made the actors "Grooms of Chamber". In this sense, the King did promote Shakespeare's plays, but by that time his plays were already widespread and popular.

2. Shakespeare married in between the ages of 16 and 18.

True: Shakespeare was married at the age of 18, to Anne Hathaway who was 26!

3. Shakespeare was part of a theater company.

True: He was part of "The Lord Chamberlain's Men", later renamed "The King's Men" in return of the King's favors.

Source:

"Shakespeare Biography." Shakespeare Biography at AbsoluteShakespeare.com.  
AbsoluteShakespeare.com, n.d. Web. 10 Apr. 2013  
<[http://absoluteshakespeare.com/trivia/biography/shakespeare\\_biography.htm](http://absoluteshakespeare.com/trivia/biography/shakespeare_biography.htm)>.

Ruvini Amarasekera

1. In his play, men act as women.

Yes, usually things that were socially acceptable for men were not for women. According to the law, women were not allowed to act on stage. Young boys usually played the role of women because of their higher voices.

[http://www.ehow.com/info\\_8673792\\_were-roles-plays-shakespearian-era.html](http://www.ehow.com/info_8673792_were-roles-plays-shakespearian-era.html)

2. Three Kids.

Yes, he had three kids, Susanna, Judith, and Hamnet.

<http://www.literarygenius.info/children-william-shakespeare.htm>

3. Lived in London.

Yes, Shakespeare lived in London

<http://www.shakespeareinamericancommunities.org/education/life-william-shakespeare>

Jessica Marsh

**1. He was the first to write about common people**

It is true that Shakespeare was one of the first to write about common people

<http://reference.yourdictionary.com/books-literature/many-plays-shakespeare-write.html>

**2. His plays were acted in the Globe theatre**

This fact is true, Shakespeare's plays were performed in the Globe theatre

<http://absoluteshakespeare.com/trivia/globe/globe.htm>

3. [What we think we know]

**Q. He may have been Italian**

**A.** William Shakespeare had an Italian heritage. His real name was Michelangelo Florio Crollanza.

<http://shakespeareauthorship.com/italy.html>

Winki

What we think we know:

**1. William Shakespeare was a major stockholder in the Globe Theater.**

A: This fact is in fact true. William Shakespeare owned 12.5 % of the Globe Theater. As a young writer he bought shares and benefited financially after his plays became popular.

<http://www.nosweatshakespeare.com/resources/globe-theatre-facts>

**2. William Shakespeare worked mostly in the Globe Theater.**

A: This fact is also true. William Shakespeare worked mostly in the Globe Theater that the Theater was also known as the Shakespeare Globe Theater. This was where Shakespeare performed many of his greatest plays.

<http://www.shakespearebythesea.org/school/supplemental.pdf>

**3. William Shakespeare had style.**

A: Since William Shakespeare did not come from a noble background there are really no pictures or portraits commissioned. Based on pictures drawn after his death it is safe to say that he was a stylish man that dressed accordingly to the fashion during Elizabethan and Jacobean times.



Notice the collar, the colour and material and shape of his clothing. For a very in depth and detailed article about fashion during Elizabethan and Jacobean times please click on the links below!

<http://www.shakespeare-online.com/biography/elizabethanclothes.html>

<http://www.elizabethan-era.org.uk/elizabethan-clothing-allowed-men.htm>

<http://www.william-shakespeare.info/william-shakespeare-pictures.htm>

Melissa Lin

**1. Q: Did Shakespeare act in some of his plays?**

A: William was also an actor who performed many of his own plays as well as those of other playwrights

<http://absoluteshakespeare.com/trivia/facts/facts.htm>

**2. Q: Was his wife Anne Hathaway?**

A: Yes, she was 26 and William was 18 when they got married and they had 8 children.

<http://absoluteshakespeare.com/trivia/facts/facts.htm>

**3. Q: What was his family background?**

A: He was born in Stratford-on-Avon

William's mother's name was Mary Arden. She came from a very wealthy family. Mary had eight children.

William went to Stratford Grammar School where he got all his education. At age seven, Shakespeare studied classics in Greek and Latin.

Shakespeare's father was a mayor

He had a daughter named Susanna, twins Judith and Hamnet. Unfortunately Hamnet died at age 11 in 1569.

No evidence of Shakespeare was found between the years of 1585-1592

William left London in 1611, and he died on his birthday and the cause is still unknown

<http://www.yesnet.yk.ca/schools/projects/renaissance/main/shakespeare.html>

Izabelle Elias

**1. Who was Shakespeare's sponsor?**

> Technically, King James I of England should be Shakespeare's sponsor. He was fond of arts and brought Shakespeare's acting company under his patronage. King James I also granted Shakespeare's company a Royal Patent and changed their name from the Lord Chamberlain's Men to the King's men.

Source: <http://www.shakespeare-online.com/faq/kingsmen.html>

**2. Shakespeare was baptized three days after he was born.**

> Confirmed, he was guessed to be born three days before he was baptized on April 26th, 1564, in the Holy Trinity Church.

Source: <http://absoluteshakespeare.com/trivia/faq/faq.htm>

**3. What was Shakespeare's favourite colour?**

> Unfortunately, there is no historical evidence that recorded his favourite colour, or any other of his likes and dislikes. At that time, it seemed irrelevant to write about these things. In fact, we barely know anything about what he did as a child.

Source: <http://www.nosweatshakespeare.com/resources/shakespeare-childhood/>

Also, this website contains lots of useful information and facts about Shakespeare:  
<http://absoluteshakespeare.com/index.htm>

-Isaac C.

Some fun and informative links to Shakespeare and information about him.

<http://www.folger.edu/template.cfm?cid=588>

<http://www.shakespeare-online.com/>

**Was Shakespeare gay?** Shakespeare wrote 154 sonnets, apparently not intended for publication. The majority of these sonnets address the poet's love for a young man. There is no historical evidence to indicate Shakespeare was bisexual or homosexual; he was a married man with three children. However, the poet's intense romantic feelings for the young man in the sonnets have led some to believe Shakespeare was having a homosexual affair.

But is the speaker of the sonnets expressing Shakespeare's personal feelings? Does the young man belong solely to the realm of fantasy, as do Falstaff and the Three Witches? Since we do not know the answers, critics often choose to refer to the speaker of the sonnets as simply "the poet", to illustrate that he is a character, and not necessarily William Shakespeare. For much more on this topic, please see the commentary for [Sonnet 20](#) and [Sonnet 75](#).

THE ABOVE IS FROM THIS SITE:

<http://www.shakespeare-online.com/biography/shakespearetopquestions.html>

- Stella So

Paige Wilson

1. Did Shakespeare invent the word swagger?

According to [www.shakespeare-online.com/biography/wordsinvented.html](http://www.shakespeare-online.com/biography/wordsinvented.html), Shakespeare invented the word swagger, along with other words like bedroom,

excitement, caked, green-eyed, and many more.

2. Was Shakespeare really the author of all the things he wrote?

[www.shakespeare-online.com/faq/shakepeareauthorship.html](http://www.shakespeare-online.com/faq/shakepeareauthorship.html) states that in 1857, Delia Salter Bacon published "The Philosophy of Shakespeare Unfolded" where she said that Lord Francis Bacon and many others wrote his plays. However, hardly any evidence supports this theory when there is a lot of evidence showing that Shakespeare is the true author of his plays.

3. Did Shakespeare create his own style of writing?

In [www.freelancewriting.com/articles/WS-the-writing-style-of-william-shakespeare.php](http://www.freelancewriting.com/articles/WS-the-writing-style-of-william-shakespeare.php), it says that Shakespeare had many different styles of writing. He wrote mostly comedies, historical plays, tragedies, and dark dramas. He wrote plays that appealed to everyone, and his style of writing fit plays very well. Shakespeare also had a tendency to bring a lyrical element to his writing which made for very interesting stories.

~~~~~ALISON WU~~~~~

### **When did he die?**

Shakespeare supposedly died on April 23, 1616 at the exact age of 52. His real date of both death and birth are not exactly known, but his birthday has been estimated to be 3 days before April 26 (when he got baptized). Therefore, his birthday is said to be on April 23, and so that day seems most fitting for his death as well.

Strangely, about four weeks prior to his death (Mar.25), Shakespeare wrote his Last Will and Testament. Did he know his death was foreboding? That, we will never know.

The cause of his death is unknown as well, but an entry in John Ward's diary had said,

***"Shakespeare, Drayton, and Ben Jonson had a merry meeting and it seems drank too hard, for Shakespeare died of a fever there contracted."***

We can deduct from this that he died from a fever, maybe one that developed into pneumonia.

source: <http://www.literarygenius.info/death-william-shakespeare.htm>

### **Who are the Lord Chamberlain's Men?**

In 1594, Shakespeare became a founding member of the acting troupe, the Lord Chamberlain's Men (later known as the King's Men when James I becomes King). He was a very successful writer and actor. He became the "principal comedian"(1598), and the "principal tragedian"(1603) of his troupe. Shakespeare stayed with this acting company until he retired around 1613 and later died.

source(s): <http://www.gradesaver.com/author/shakespeare/>

<http://www.poemhunter.com/william-shakespeare/biography/>

### **Other informatic sources/databases:**

<http://internetshakespeare.uvic.ca/Foyer/plays.html>

<http://www.literarygenius.info/>

<http://www.bardweb.net/man.html>

## **Brianna Disterhoeft**

1. How old was Shakespeare when he died?

*Shakespeare was 52 when he passed away (the year 1616). He passed away on his birthday, which is believed to be April 23rd. Unfortunately, the cause of his death wasn't known, and to this day, still remains a mystery. HOWEVER, in John Ward's Diary (the vicar of the Holy Trinity Church, which is in Stratford, where Shakespeare is buried), John wrote "Shakespeare, Drayton, and Ben Jonson had a merry meeting and it seems drank too hard, for Shakespeare died of a fever there contracted." However, this is not set in stone, and has not been officially confirmed as Shakespeare's cause of death. (Interesting fact: The day Shakespeare passed away was also a day known as St. George's Day. St. George was the patron saint of England, who died in 303.)*

2. How many brothers and sisters did Shakespeare have?

*Shakespeare had SEVEN brothers and sisters. He had five older siblings. All were dead by the time he was born. His only surviving sibling, his sister Joan, was alive at the time of his death in 1616. Shakespeare left a large part of his will to his sister, who got property, money, and some of his other belongings, so she could provide for her sons.*

### **Sources:**

<http://www.nosweatshakespeare.com/resources/shakespeare-facts/>

<http://www.shakespeare-online.com/biography/deathofshakespeare.html>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint\\_George](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_George)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan\\_Shakespeare#Life](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan_Shakespeare#Life)

### **Q1. Did Shakespeare write books?**

No, he only wrote plays and poems. The poems are called sonnets. As far as I know, he wrote around 150 sonnets, and of course, there might be more sonnets out

there in the world that haven't discover.

**Q2. How did Shakespeare come up with his play/story ideas?**

He took ideas from the problems in society that he saw at the time. He might also have taking ideas from history and mythology.

**Q3. Why did he start writing?**

Nobody knows why. Possible answers are:

- a) It made money; he was a member of a theatre company, and anyone who could doctor a script was apt to get roped in.
- b) He had the urge some of us feel to think and write imaginatively.
- c) He found he was good at playwriting.

**Sources:**

" **Cliffs Complete Julius Caesar**"      **Hungry Minds, Inc.**

**Ed: Lamb, Sidney.      2000.**

(I'm sorry this book took me a long time to read it, but I think I got the information I want, so I'm quite happy about it)

William Liu:

**William Shakespeare had his first child 4 months after his marriage.**

William Shakespeare had three children. Susanna was born in May 1583, **six months** after the wedding of her parents Anne Hathaway and William Shakespeare. (<http://www.william-shakespeare.info/william-shakespeare-children-and-grandchildren.htm>)

**He made plays, poems and sonnets.**

Famous Plays: Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, Julius Caesar...

Famous Poems: [A Lover's Complaint](#) , [Phoenix and the Turtle](#)...

Famous Sonnets: [When in disgrace with fortune](#), [Let me not to the marriage of true minds](#)...

(<http://www.william-shakespeare.info/william-shakespeare-plays.htm>)

(<http://www.william-shakespeare.info/william-shakespeare-poems.htm>)

(<http://www.william-shakespeare.info/william-shakespeare-sonnets.htm>)



**A website for learning about William Shakespeare**

<http://www.william-shakespeare.info/>