

Shakespeare Biography Quiz – Open Book

Name _____ Period _____

1. In what year was Shakespeare born?
 - A. 1564
 - B. 1616
 - C. 1558
 - D. 1592
2. Shakespeare was born in what town or city?
 - A. London
 - B. Stratford-upon-Avon
 - C. Snitterfield
 - D. Oxford
3. The names of Shakespeare's father and mother were:
 - A. Abraham and Sara
 - B. William and Anne
 - C. John and Mary
4. Shakespeare attended the Stratford Grammar School, also known as the King's New School:
 - A. From 1569 to 1579
 - B. He did not attend school.
 - C. There are no records of his school attendance, but it is highly likely he attended that school.
5. Who did Shakespeare marry?
 - A. Judith Sadler
 - B. Susanna Hall
 - C. Anne Hathaway
 - D. Mary Queen of Scots
6. Shakespeare was the father of how many children?
 - A. 3
 - B. 2
 - C. 10
 - D. 1
7. Shakespeare left his home town of Stratford because:
 - A. He was caught poaching on the lands of Sir Thomas Lucy and fled to avoid prosecution.
 - B. He was apprenticed to his father who was a butcher. He hated the work and ran away to London.
 - C. He took a job as a school teacher in the country, and left to pursue this career.
 - D. It is not known for sure how or why he left.
8. What Elizabethan writer called Shakespeare an "upstart crow"?
 - A. John Lyly
 - B. Christopher Marlowe
 - C. Ben Jonson
 - D. Robert Greene
9. The London theaters were closed on account of a virulent outbreak of the plague in 1593 and part of 1594. Specifically, what disease was this?
 - A. Tuberculosis
 - B. The Plague of Frogs
 - C. Bubonic Plague
 - D. The pox

10. To whom did Shakespeare dedicate his long narrative poems *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*?

- A. Queen Elizabeth
- B. Sir Walter Raleigh
- C. William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke
- D. Henry Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton

11. In 1598 Francis Meres published a commonplace book (diary) called *Palladis Tamia*. In it he listed several of Shakespeare's plays:

Two Gentlemen of Verona
The Comedy of Errors
Love's Labour's Lost
Love's Labour's Won
A Midsummer Night's Dream
The Merchant of Venice
Richard II
Richard III
Henry IV
King John
Titus Andronicus
Romeo and Juliet

So we know that these were written by 1598. Which play known to exist by that time is NOT in Meres' list?

- A. *The Jew of Malta*
- B. *The Taming of the Shrew*
- C. *The Tempest*
- D. *The Two Noble Kinsmen*

12. Is it possible to say in exactly what order Shakespeare's plays were written?

- A. Yes
- B. No.

13. In 1594 Shakespeare became one of the founding members of what acting company?

- A. The Lord Chamberlain's Men
- B. The King's Men
- C. The Royal Shakespeare Company

14. In what year was the Globe Theater built?

- A. 1594
- B. 1599
- C. 1608
- D. 1613

15. Some time after 1599-1600 Shakespeare turned from writing predominantly romantic comedies and history plays to tragedies. Which five plays are known as his "great tragedies"?

- A. *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *Antony and Cleopatra*
- B. *The Merchant of Venice*, *Henry IV Part 1*, *Henry IV Part 2*, *Henry V*, *Twelfth Night*
- C. *King John*, *Henry VI Part 1*, *Richard II*, *Richard III*, *Henry VIII*
- D. *Measure for Measure*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *Coriolanus*, *Timon of Athens*, *Cymbeline*.

16. In 1603 Shakespeare's acting company, The Lord Chamberlain's Men, became the King's Men. Which king was their patron?

- A. George III
- B. James I
- C. Edward III
- D. Henry VIII

17. Beginning around 1608 Shakespeare wrote 4 plays, *Pericles Prince of Tyre*, *Cymbeline*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *The Tempest*, often categorized as:

- A. Masques
- B. Romances
- C. Melodramas
- D. Dark Tragedies

18. In his later years, Shakespeare collaborated with what author on the play *The Two Noble Kinsmen*?

- A. Thomas Middleton
- B. Francis Beaumont.
- C. Christopher Marlowe.
- D. John Fletcher.
- E. Ben Jonson

19. In what year did Shakespeare die?

- A. 1599
- B. 1616
- C. 1623
- D. 1642

20. In what year was the first collected edition of Shakespeare's plays, called the First Folio, published?

- A. 1599
- B. 1616
- C. 1623
- D. 1685

21. You are truly a Shakespeare aficionado if you know this one: which fellow actor(s) did Shakespeare remember in his will?

- A. Richard Burbage, John Heminges and Henry Condell.
- B. Will Kempe
- C. Robert Armin
- D. Thomas Pope, Will Sly and William Beeston

22. Is it reasonable to think that someone other than William Shakespeare (1564-1616) of Stratford-upon-Avon wrote the works attributed to him?

- A. Yes.
- B. No.