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AP English Literature and Composition, Period 6

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Shakespeare's Life and Times: A Critical Annotation

Pressley, J.M. "About the SRC." <u>Shakespeare Resource Center.</u> 1997-2014. Web. 06 Nov. 2014.

Pressley, J.M. "Shakespeare's Biography." <u>Shakespeare Resource Center.</u> 1997-2014. Web. 06

Nov. 2014.

This website presents a brief chronological overview of Shakespeare's life, beginning

with his birth on April 23, 1564—the piece notes that "he was baptized [at Holy Trinity

Church] on April 26, 1564," (Pressley, "Shakespeare's Biography") leaving scholars to

conclude that his birthday was a few days earlier. The piece highlights his major life events,

including Shakespeare's marriage, the birth of his three children, and his critical success as

an actor, playwright, and entrepreneur. The article notes that "While Shakespeare might not

be accounted wealthy by London standards, his success allowed him to purchase New

House and retire in comfort to Stratford in 1611" (Pressley, "Shakespeare's Biography").

The site is copyrighted 1997-2014 by the author, J. M. Pressley, who holds a B.F.A. in

Theatre Arts and an M.A. in writing from DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois, and has

maintained the Shakespeare Resource Center since 1997, after he conceived it for a class in

technical writing as part of his master's studies, to concentrate "the most useful links on

Shakespeare around the World Wide Web" (Pressley, "About the SRC"). Given that he has

maintained the website for nearly 20 years and displays an obvious passion for theatre and

Shakespeare, this seems to be a credible source. Further, Pressley acknowledges the

limitations of what scholars know about Shakespeare, even questioning some

Wikipedia-esque facts (such as his established date of birth). This source helped me

understand both what is actually known about Shakespeare and what remains a mystery,

and I learned a little more about his early life and schooling as a young child from the

records that Pressley presents.