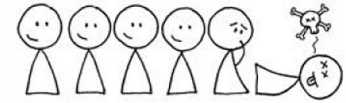


# William Shakespeare's Life and Times

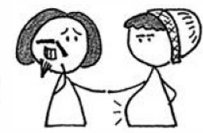
William Shakespeare, eldest son of the glove maker John Shakespeare, is born and baptised in Stratford-upon-Avon

1564

The plague kills one in every six citizens in Stratford-upon-Avon



Anne was pregnant at the time. Maybe he was forced to marry her to save her reputation...



1577

Sir Francis Drake sails around the world

William Shakespeare marries Anne Hathaway

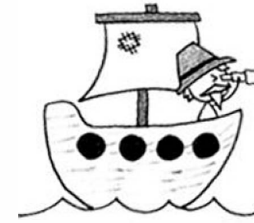
1582

Shakespeare's daughter Susanna is born six months after the wedding

1583

Anne gives birth to twins, Judith and Hamnet

1584



There are lots of speculations about what William did during this time and why he went away from Stratford. Perhaps he got into trouble for poaching deer at Charlecote Park. Perhaps he joined a traveling group of actors. We simply do not know.

The Lost Years: Shakespeare leaves Stratford and disappears from all records

1585-1591



1588

Defeat of the Spanish Armada



First mention of Shakespeare's fame as a playwright in London: "an upstart crow"

1592

Publication of *Venus and Adonis*, based on Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, Book 10.

1593

Shakespeare jointly founds a theatre company: The Lord Chamberlain's Men

1594

London's theatres closed for more than a year due to the plague



Sir Walter Raleigh's expedition to South America to discover El Dorado

1595

After Will lost his only son, he was heartbroken. His experience probably helped him to express sorrow and grief in his plays, especially in the character of Lady Constance in the history play *King John*, after the death of her son, Arthur.

Shakespeare's only son Hamnet dies.

1596

Shakespeare buys New Place, the second-largest house in Stratford-upon-Avon

1597

Will wrote a history play called *Richard II* about a weak king who is deposed by his subjects. A performance of *Richard II* was commissioned by the Earl of Essex to coincide with the rebellion in February 1601 to remind the people that an English monarch had been deposed in the past, and that it could happen again.



The Globe Theatre opens on the South Bank of the river Thames; Shakespeare is a shareholder

1599



1600

The East India Company is founded by Elizabeth I

1601

The Essex Rebellion: the Earl of Essex is executed after plotting against the Queen



After the death of Elizabeth I King James I becomes patron of Shakespeare's theatre company: They are now called The King's Men

1603

1605

The Gunpowder Plot: Guy Fawkes and his co-conspirators plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament

Shakespeare's eldest daughter Susanna marries the physician John Hall

1607

Establishment of Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in North America

Birth of Shakespeare's granddaughter Elizabeth Hall; Death of Shakespeare's mother Mary

1608

Shakespeare's Sonnets published

1609

The crew of the Sea Venture is shipwrecked on the Bermuda islands; accounts of their survival are thought to have been an inspiration for *The Tempest*

1610

Gallileo proves that the Earth is not at the centre of the universe



Shakespeare spends more and more time in Stratford-upon-Avon

1611/1612

The Globe burns down after a cannon misfires during the performance of *Henry VIII*

1613

The second Globe is built and opened

1614

On April 23, Shakespeare dies at the age of 52

1616

Shakespeare's *Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies*, also known as the First Folio, is published

1623

