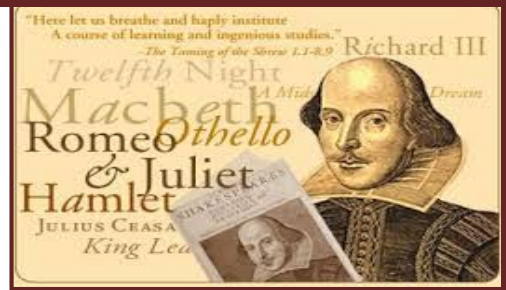


# Shakespeare's life and poems



1) Read the text. Five sentences have been removed. Match each gap (1-5) with a sentence (A-F) given on the right.

Stratford-upon-Avon is set in a beautiful rural Warwickshire countryside. 1

William Shakespeare, the most famous writer in the English language, was born on 23 April 1564 and he died on the same day in 1616.

He was a poet, playwright and actor for most of his life. He wrote 37 plays and 154 sonnets or short poems.

Shakespeare is most famous for his plays, including *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. 2

The word 'sonnet' refers to the form of the poem which has a special rhythm and rhyme. Shakespeare's 154 sonnets were published in a book in 1609. The poems are about many topics including love, beauty and death. 3

Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway in 1582 and the couple had three children. By 1592 Shakespeare was in London, writing plays and probably performing in them too in the Globe Theatre. 4

Shakespeare retired in 1613 and came back to Stratford from London. 5

Shakespeare's plays are performed all over the world and in almost every language.

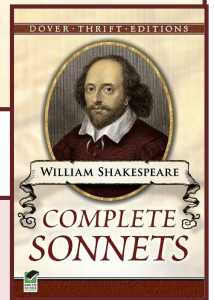
A) However, his poems were also very popular. Shakespeare wrote a special type of poem, called sonnets.

B) He died at his house in New Place three years later.

C) The town is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Britain.

D) The original Globe Theatre was built in 1599 and possibly paid for by Shakespeare and other members of his acting company.

E) They are often read together in groups of poems on a similar theme, called for example the *Dark Lady* and *Fair Youth*.

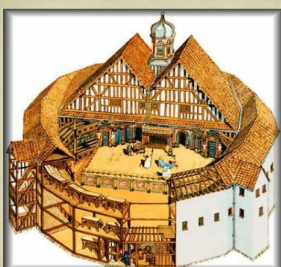


2) Write notes about the numbers.

1. 23 April 1564 \_\_\_\_\_
2. 23 April 1616 \_\_\_\_\_
3. 37 \_\_\_\_\_
4. 154 \_\_\_\_\_
5. 1582 \_\_\_\_\_
6. 3 \_\_\_\_\_
7. 1592 \_\_\_\_\_
8. 1599 \_\_\_\_\_
9. 1613 \_\_\_\_\_

3) Choose the correct answers a, b or c.

1. Where is Stratford located in ?  
 a) the East Midlands of England    b) the West Midlands of England    c) Wales
2. Which century was Shakespeare born ?  
 a) 15<sup>th</sup>    b) 16<sup>th</sup>    c) 17<sup>th</sup>
3. Shakespeare is famous for both writing plays and \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a) stories    b) essays    c) poems
4. A sonnet is a poem with a special sort of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a) rhythm    b) theme    c) story
5. When did Shakespeare die ?  
 a) in 1613    b) in 1615    c) in 1616
6. He spent most of his life working in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a) Stratford    b) Oxford    c) London
7. The Globe Theatre that you can see in London today \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a) is the theatre where Shakespeare worked  
 b) was paid for by Shakespeare alone  
 c) is a copy of the original



*Drawing of what Shakespeare's Globe Theatre looked like*