

William shakespeare: the greatest writer

[Literature](#), [British Literature](#)



I. Introduction Shakespeare was a respected poet and playwright during his days. A number of his plays were published in editions of differing quality and precision throughout his lifetime. His plays stay highly popular today and are constantly studied, carried out, and reinterpreted in diverse cultural and political contexts throughout the world. Shakespeare is hailed, presciently, as “not of an age, however for perpetuity.” II. William Shakespeare’s Life and Functions a. Shakespeare’s Early Life.

William Shakespeare was the kid of John Shakespeare, an alderman and an effective glover initially from Snitterfield, and Mary Arden, the child of a wealthy landowning farmer.

He was born in Stratford-upon-Avon and baptised there on 26 April 1564. His actual birth date stays unidentified, however is typically observed on 23 April, St George’s Day. This date, which can be traced back to an 18th-century scholar’s mistake, has shown attracting biographers, since Shakespeare passed away 23 April 1616. He was the third child of eight and the eldest surviving child.

b. Plays A lot of playwrights of the period typically worked together with others at some point, and critics concur that Shakespeare did the exact same, mostly early and late in his profession. Some attributions, such as Titus Andronicus and the early history plays, remain questionable, while The Two Noble Kinsmen and the lost Cardenio have well-attested modern paperwork. Textual evidence likewise supports the view that several of the plays were revised by other authors after their initial composition. i. Macbeth

Macbeth is Shakespeare's darkest catastrophe, and is considered as one of his darkest and most powerful tragedies. The play is believed to have actually been written between 1603 and 1607, and is most typically dated 1606. ii. Hamlet is Shakespeare's longest play and amongst the most effective and influential disasters in all literature, with a story capable of "seemingly limitless retelling and adjustment by others". The play was among Shakespeare's most popular works during his lifetime and still ranks among his most-performed, topping the Royal Shakespeare Business's performance list given that 1879.

It has inspired writers from Goethe and Dickens to Joyce and Murdoch, and has been described as "the world's most filmed story after Cinderella". iii. Romeo and Juliet Romeo and Juliet is a tragedy written early in the career of William Shakespeare about two young star-crossed lovers whose deaths ultimately reconcile their feuding families. It was among Shakespeare's most popular plays during his lifetime and, along with Hamlet, is one of his most frequently performed plays. Today, the title characters are regarded as archetypal young lovers.

c. Poems i. Sonnets Published in 1609, the Sonnets were the last of Shakespeare's non-dramatic works to be printed. Scholars are not certain when each of the 154 sonnets was composed, but evidence suggests that Shakespeare wrote sonnets throughout his career for a private readership. Even before the two unauthorised sonnets appeared in *The Passionate Pilgrim* in 1599, Francis Meres had referred in 1598 to Shakespeare's "surged Sonnets among his private friends".

Few analysts believe that the published collection follows Shakespeare's intended sequence. ii. Style Shakespeare's first plays were written in the conventional style of the day. He wrote them in a stylised language that does not always spring naturally from the needs of the characters or the drama. The poetry depends on extended, sometimes elaborate metaphors and conceits, and the language is often rhetorical—written for actors to declaim rather than speak.

Soon, however, Shakespeare began to adapt the traditional styles to his own purposes. Shakespeare's standard poetic form was blank verse, composed in iambic pentameter.

In practice, this meant that his verse was usually unrhymed and consisted of ten syllables to a line, spoken with a stress on every second syllable. The blank verse of his early plays is quite different from that of his later ones. It is often beautiful, but its sentences tend to start, pause, and finish at the end of lines, with the risk of monotony. Once Shakespeare mastered traditional blank verse, he began to interrupt and vary its flow. This technique releases the new power and flexibility of the poetry in plays such as *Julius Caesar* and *Hamlet*.

Shakespeare uses it, for example, to convey the turmoil in Hamlet's mind. iii. Influence Shakespeare's work has made a lasting impression on later theatre and literature. In particular, he expanded the dramatic potential of characterisation, plot, language, and genre. Shakespeare influenced novelists such as Thomas Hardy, William Faulkner, and Charles Dickens. The

American novelist Herman Melville's soliloquies owe much to Shakespeare; his Captain Ahab in *Moby-Dick* is a classic tragic hero, inspired by *King Lear*.

Scholars have identified 20, 000 pieces of music linked to Shakespeare's works. These include two operas by Giuseppe Verdi, *Otello* and *Falstaff*, whose critical standing compares with that of the source plays. Shakespeare has also inspired many painters, including the Romantics and the Pre-Raphaelites. The Swiss Romantic artist Henry Fuseli, a friend of William Blake, even translated *Macbeth* into German. The psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud drew on Shakespearean psychology, in particular that of *Hamlet*, for his theories of human nature.

In Shakespeare's day, English grammar, spelling and pronunciation were less standardised than they are now, and his use of language helped shape modern English. Samuel Johnson quoted him more often than any other author in his *A Dictionary of the English Language*, the first serious work of its type. Expressions such as "with bated breath" (*Merchant of Venice*) and "a foregone conclusion" (*Othello*) have found their way into everyday English speech.

iv. Speculation about Shakespeare

a. Authorship

Around 230 years after Shakespeare's death, doubts began to be expressed about the authorship of the works attributed to him. Proposed alternative candidates include Francis Bacon, Christopher Marlowe, and Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford. Several "group theories" have also been proposed. Only a small minority of academics believe there is reason to question the traditional attribution, but interest in the subject, particularly the Oxfordian

theory of Shakespeare authorship, continues into the 21st century. b. Religion.

Some scholars claim that members of Shakespeare's family were Catholics, at a time when Catholic practice was against the law. Shakespeare's mother, Mary Arden, certainly came from a pious Catholic family. The strongest evidence might be a Catholic statement of faith signed by John Shakespeare, found in 1757 in the rafters of his former house in Henley Street. The document is now lost, however, and scholars differ as to its authenticity. In 1591 the authorities reported that John Shakespeare had missed church "for fear of process for debt", a common Catholic excuse.

In 1606 the name of William's daughter Susanna appears on a list of those who failed to attend Easter communion in Stratford. Scholars find evidence both for and against Shakespeare's Catholicism in his plays, but the truth may be impossible to prove either way. c. Sexuality Few details of Shakespeare's sexuality are known. At 18, he married the 26-year-old Anne Hathaway, who was pregnant. Susanna, the first of their three children, was born six months later on 26 May 1583.

Over the centuries some readers have posited that Shakespeare's sonnets are autobiographical, and point to them as evidence of his love for a young man. Others read the same passages as the expression of intense friendship rather than sexual love. The 26 so-called "Dark Lady" sonnets, addressed to a married woman, are taken as evidence of heterosexual liaisons.

d. Portraiture No written contemporary description of Shakespeare's physical appearance survives, and no evidence suggests that he ever commissioned a portrait, so the Droeshout engraving, which Ben Jonson approved of as a good likeness, and his Stratford monument provide the best evidence of his appearance.

From the 18th century, the desire for authentic Shakespeare portraits fuelled claims that various surviving pictures depicted Shakespeare. That demand also led to the production of several fake portraits, as well as mis-attributions, repaintings and relabelling of portraits of other people.

III. Conclusion and Recommendation Shakespeare's theatre is the major literary legacy of the humanity. Each detail is written with extremely attention and every word used is the best option for the space that it occupies. Shakespeare will continue to help the modern society realize that the past is the key to know the future.

His writings will help us expand our knowledge and will open up many opportunities for us to read and study his writings. William Shakespeare will always be an author that continues to inspire many people, present and future, and make them interested in plays and in Literature. IV. Bibliography http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Shakespeare * Life (Early Life) * Plays * Macbeth * Hamlet * Romeo and Juliet * Poems * Sonnet * Style * Influence * Speculation about Shakespeare * Authorship * Sexuality * Portraiture.