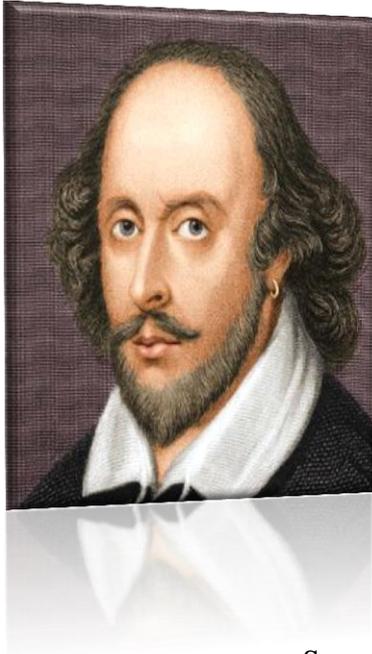


THE LEGEND: WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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William Shakespeare, a renowned playwright who wrote more than thirty plays in his short life time, was probably born in 1564 in Stratford-on-Avon. He is regarded as the most influential writer of all times. It is mainly because no matter how many years pass, his plays and sonnets remain immortal. He also invented so many words and contributed to the English language. Although he is an English writer, his fame has spread all around the world. To many people, he is a legend.

Shakespeare took up a career as an actor and a playwright in London after his marriage to Anne Hathaway.

Soon, he and his friends became popular on account of their successful works in the theatre called Lord Chamberlain's Men. They performed for rulers like Queen Elizabeth and James the First. His plays were mostly tragedies like Hamlet. These plays do not end happily. But he also wrote very funny plays called comedies. Shakespeare retired from active participation in drama and subsequently returned to Stratford and died a few years later in 1616.

There is not just one reason why Shakespeare remains popular even long after his death. Besides his successful plays, he also created so many words such as schoolboy, birthplace, and radiance. These words have now become a part and parcel of modern day English. It is not surprising that such a productive and ingenious writer affects people from all cultures. For example; Japanese film maker Akira Kurosawa used Shakespeare's stories, but in a different way. He filmed his own versions by not using Shakespeare's words. You can both recognize Shakespeare and him in his works.

THINGS WE SAY TODAY WHICH WE OWE TO SHAKESPEARE

"KNOCK KNOCK! WHO'S THERE?" "HEART OF GOLD"
 "SET YOUR TEETH ON EDGE"
 "FAINT HEARTED" "SO-SO" "GOOD RIDDANCE"
 "FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE" "SEEN BETTER DAYS"
 "TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING"
 "WEAR YOUR HEART ON YOUR SLEEVE"
 "NOT SLEPT ONE WINK" "SEND HIM PACKING"
 "THE GAME IS UP" "COME WHAT MAY"
 "WHAT'S DONE IS DONE" "FOR GOODNESS' SAKE"
 "BATED BREATH" "GREEN EYED MONSTER" "FULL CIRCLE"
 "VANISH INTO THIN AIR" "BE ALL / END ALL"
 "OUT OF THE JAWS OF DEATH" "DEAD AS A DOORNAIL"
 "IN A FAIR / FOUL NEW WORLD" "LAUGHING STOCK"
 "PICKLE" "PLAY / PLAY WORLD" "MAKES YOUR HAIR
 "NAKED TRUTH" "THE ICE" "BROTH" "THE WORLD IS WILD"
 "BREAK THE ICE" "LIE HIS LAST" "MY OYSTER" "GOOSE"
 "OFF WITH HIS HEAD" "LOW" "LOVE IS BLIND" "CHASE"
 "HEART OF HEARTS" "A SORRY SIGHT" "A PIECE OF WORK"

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To conclude, Shakespeare's dramas, diction, and creativity made him one of the most impressive playwrights in literature. His plays were performed more than any other playwright. Without Shakespeare, we would not have daily phrases such as "a sorry sight" or "as pure as driven snow". We also would not have the famous lines like "to thine own self be true". This is why he went down in history.

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