

*Intro to Drama
and Shakespeare*

Miss Wilson/Mrs. Turner
English I

The Genius of William Shakespeare

“All the world’s a stage and all the men
and women merely players; they have
their entrances and their exits and one
man, in his time, plays many parts.”

-from As You Like It

The Elizabethan Age

- Shakespeare's Queen
 - The overlap of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and the career of William Shakespeare.
 - She had no interest in sharing power with a spouse
 - Reined for 44 years



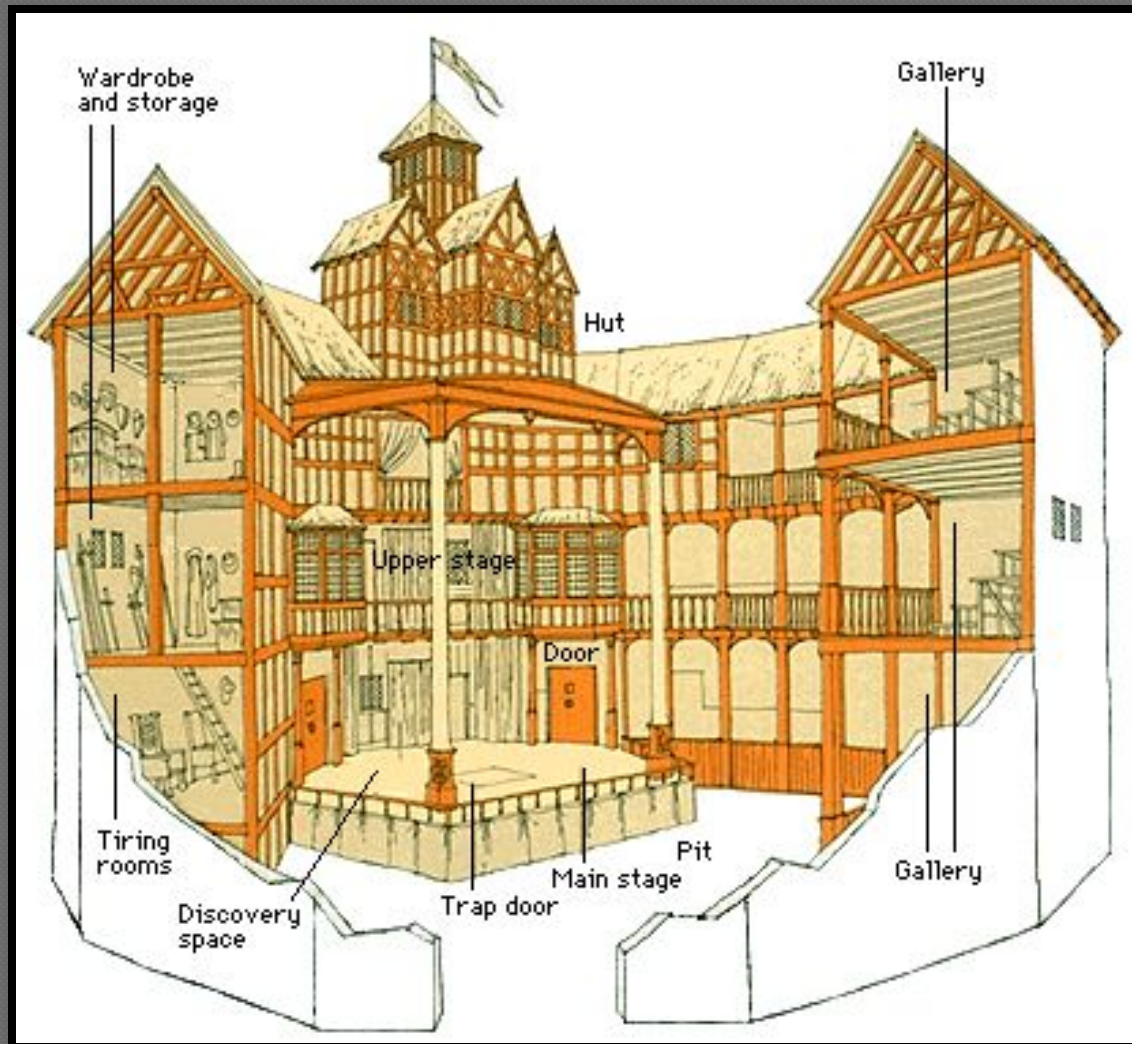
The English Renaissance

- A boom of English art and literature
- The “glory days” of the English theatre
 - The only plays approved before the English Renaissance were “Mystery Plays.”

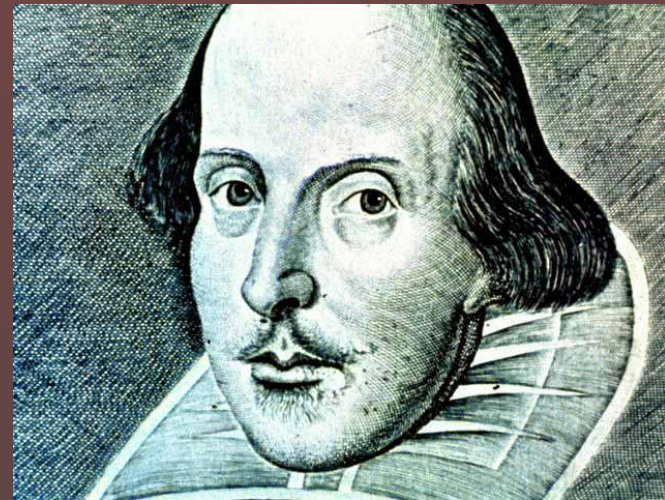


The Elizabethan Theatre

A Look at the Globe



*Who is this man called
Shakespeare?*



A Genius is Born

- Birth – April 23, 1564 (we think)- Died April 23, 1616
- Warwickshire, Stratford-Upon-Avon
- Married Anne Hathaway (not the actress) at the age of 18

- 3 Children
 - Susana
 - Judith
 - Hamnet



"The Bard"

- Massive collection of literature written between 1590 and 1610
 - 37 plays
 - 154 sonnets
- Greatest Play?
 - Academics argue "Hamlet"
 - Pop culture argues "Romeo and Juliet"
- Types of Plays in Life?
 - Early Period: Histories and Comedies
 - Later Period: Tragedies & Tragicomedies

Is Shakespeare really Shakespeare?

- Is this man named William Shakespeare truly the author of this great body of literature?
 - Why?
 - He lacked higher education.
 - How can this uneducated man possibly have written the most beautiful English literature of all times?
 - Though his family was not considered poor, he was certainly not a nobleman.
 - Shakespeare's name was borrowed by another writer?
- “No one can tell a story better than Shakespeare... so long as someone tells it to him first.”

Romeo and Juliet

- ◉ Written around 1595 (making this one of his early works)
- ◉ Partly based in truth
 - There was a real couple (and rival families)
 - Live in Verona, Italy
 - Died for each other in 1303
- ◉ A poem written about the lovers
 - “The Tragical History of Romeus and Juliet”
 - Arthur Brooke, 1562
- ◉ There is doubt as to whether the story is true or simply a cautionary folktale passed down for generations.

Romeo and Juliet

- ◉ Three additional pieces that were inspired by Romeo and Juliet
 - West Side Story
 - Love Story- Taylor Swift
 - Wuthering Heights
 - Twilight
 - Love Actually
- ◉ How is Romeo and Juliet still relevant?
 - Young Love
 - Sometimes love is doomed to fail
 - Real life vs “la la land”

The Father of Modern English

- ◉ Shakespeare was known for masterful use of the English Language.
 - Shakespeare uses 17,677 different words in his plays.
 - Approximately 1700 words appear for the very first time in Shakespearean texts.
- ◉ Shakespeare is credited with single-handedly shifting the English language toward the Modern Era of English (where English is a world language).
- ◉ His impact on our language is so great that it's almost impossible to fully comprehend.

Master of Words

- advertising
- assassination
- bandit
- critic
- dickens
- fashionable
- film
- gossip
- hush
- investment
- gloomy
- kissing
- radiance
- manager
- numb
- obscene
- puke
- quarrelsome
- rant
- shooting star
- majestic
- torture
- undress
- varied
- bloody
- amazement
- yelping
- zany
- bump
- courtship
- dishearten
- dislocate
- impartial
- laughable
- inauspicious
- monumental
- pious
- road
- submerge
- suspicious
- lonely
- indistinguishable

Shakespearean Clichés

- ◉ An eye-sore — *The Taming of the Shrew*
- ◉ Come full circle — *King Lear*
- ◉ Come what may — *Macbeth*
- ◉ Dead as a doornail — *Henry VI, part 2*
- ◉ Elbow room — *King John*
- ◉ For goodness sake — *Henry VIII*
- ◉ Knock, knock! Who's there? — *Macbeth*
- ◉ Love is blind — *The Merchant of Venice*