

The life of Shakespeare
Student A worksheets**Task 2 – Reading: checking the dates**

Is your timeline correct? Read the text below and check the order of the events on your timeline.

William Shakespeare was born on the 23rd of April 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, in England. His father was a glove maker, and they were not poor. His father became an important person in the town.

William was the eldest boy in the family, so he had to help his father. One day, he went to a market with his younger brother, Edmund. Edmund slipped because it was muddy, and a young woman helped him to stand up. Her name was Anne Hathaway. After this meeting at the market, William and Anne fell in love, and they married in 1582. Anne gave birth to their first child, Susanna, in 1583. At first, William and Anne lived with William's parents, but they moved to another house in 1584. Their son Hamnet, was born in 1585, but sadly he died when he was only eleven.

In 1587 William moved to London. He asked his brother to look after his wife and children, and he sent money home to Stratford and visited when he could. During his career, he worked as an actor, and he also wrote thirty seven plays: seventeen comedies, ten histories and ten tragedies, as well as poems. Shakespeare became rich and famous, and he had enough money to buy an expensive house in Stratford, called 'New Place'. His company of actors had enough money for a new theatre, The Globe, built in 1599. During a play in 1613, a fire started and The Globe burnt down. Fortunately, nobody was hurt, but Shakespeare seems to have written less in the years after the accident.

William only came back to Stratford for the last five years of his life. He died on his birthday, aged 52, in 1616, and was buried in a church in Stratford. His daughter Susanna inherited most of his money and possessions.

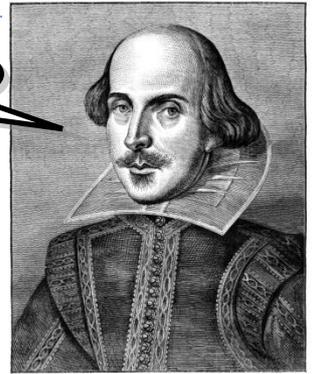
Task 3 – Vocabulary: working out the meanings of words

What do these words mean? Write your own explanation:

1. to slip (paragraph 2) _____
2. career (paragraph 3) _____
3. comedy (paragraph 3) _____
4. history (paragraph 3) _____
5. tragedy (paragraph 3) _____
6. to inherit (paragraph 4) _____

Task 4 – Making questions (Student A)

Where was I born?



a) Put the words below in the correct order to make questions:

1. did what do father Shakespeare's?

2. meet did wife Shakespeare his how?

3. marry they did when? _____
4. they many how have children did? _____
5. eleven he died when who was? _____

b) Ask your partner your questions and check their answers using the text.

Task 5: Grammar: past simple

Find the past simple form of these verbs in the text. Which ones are regular and which are irregular?

become	<u>became</u>	go	_____	do	_____
inherit	_____	have	_____	build	_____
spend	_____	work	_____	live	_____
is	_____	write	_____	die	_____
burn	_____	visit	_____	slip	_____
fall	_____	help	_____	marry	_____
give	_____	start	_____	bury	_____

Task 6 – Pronunciation

With your partner, practise saying the following past simple verbs and decide how their ending is pronounced. Write the verbs in the correct column in the table below:

inherited worked lived died visited
 slipped helped moved started

[ɪd]	[d]	[t]
inherited		

Task 7 – Dictation (Student A)

Read the following text to your partner, giving him/her time to write what you say.

In 1587 William moved to London. He asked his brother to look after his wife and children, and he sent money home to Stratford and visited when he could. During his career, he worked as an actor, and he also wrote thirty seven plays: seventeen comedies, ten histories and ten tragedies, as well as poems.

Check your partner’s writing – is it the same as the text above?

Now listen to your partner and write what he/she says. 

Shakespeare _____ rich and famous, and he _____ enough _____ to buy an expensive _____ in Stratford, called ‘New Place’. His _____ of actors _____ enough money for a new theatre: The Globe, built in _____. However, during a play in _____, a fire _____ and The Globe _____ down. William _____ his working life in _____, and he only _____ back to Stratford for the last five _____ of his life.

Ask your partner to check your writing.