

ACTIVITY NAME: William Shakespeare
ACTIVITY CATEGORY: Themes, Birthday 23rd April, 20
CREATION DATE: 13/4/20
CREATED BY: Simon BUILT BY: Simon

Chapter One His Youth

Name plays

Ask participants to discuss their favourite plays

Perhaps to recite the best lines

Which parts would they like to play?

Do they remember going to the theatre?

First Slide.

Second Slide.

Third Slide.

Fourth Slide.

Fifth Slide.

Sixth Slide.

Seventh Slide.

Eighth Slide.

Ninth Slide.

Tenth Slide.

Eleventh Slide.

Twelfth Slide.

Thirteenth Slide.

Chapter Two Where did he live

Discuss his history

Have you visited Stratford?

Are there too many tourists there

Did you go inside his house?

Fourteenth Slide.

Fifteenth Slide.

Sixteenth Slide.

Seventeenth Slide.

Chapter Three Famous Lines

Eighteenth Slide.
Nineteenth Slide.
Twentieth Slide.
Twenty-first Slide.
Twenty-second Slide.

Do they like Shakespeare?

Is it correct to present Shakespeare in modern formats?

Chapter Four Famous Actors in Action

Twenty-third Slide.
Twenty-fourth Slide.

Music-video One Richard Burton
Music-video Two Lawrence Olivier
Music-video Three Olivier in Hamlet

Twenty-fifth Slide.
Twenty-sixth Slide.
Twenty-seventh Slide.
Twenty-eighth Slide.

Which did you prefer

Chapter Five Comedy

Twenty-ninth Slide.
Thirtieth Slide.

Music-video Four Comic relief

A bit of comedy, a Live Shakespeare sketch called 'A Small Rewrite' made for Comic Relief, with Hugh Laurie as Shakespeare and Rowan Atkinson as the editor

Chapter Six Shakespeare's in schools today

Thirty-first Slide.
Thirty-second Slide.
Thirty-third Slide.

Is this the right way to teach Shakespeare today?

Chapter Seven Facts about Shakespeare

Thirty-fourth Slide.

Thirty-fifth Slide.

Thirty-sixth Slide.

Thirty-seventh Slide.

Thirty-eighth Slide.

Thirty-ninth Slide.

Fortieth Slide.

Forty-first Slide.

Forty-second Slide.

Royalty & History

It seems 'very likely' that Shakespeare and Elizabeth I met... But they probably weren't friends

In 1702, the playwright and critic John Dennis recounted a charming story. According to Dennis, William Shakespeare's theatre troupe, the Lord Chamberlain's Men, had performed the Henry IV plays at the court of Elizabeth I. So taken was the Queen with the comic and wise character of Falstaff, she requested a play in which the character fell in love. "She was so eager to see it acted," Dennis wrote, "that she commanded it be finished in 14 days." Shakespeare obliged, and the result was the comic *Merry Wives of Windsor*. For good measure, the play included lots of laudatory allusions to Elizabeth.

While many scholars assume this story to have a basis in fact, for centuries historians and artists have tried desperately to pin down the relationship between Shakespeare and the Queen. A forged letter from Elizabeth to the playwright, Shakespeare in Love and Charles Beauclerk's assertion that Shakespeare was the Queen's illegitimate son are examples of our endless fascination. "There is... a long history of people wanting Shakespeare to be Elizabeth's favourite," Professor Michael Dobson of the Shakespeare Institute explained on the podcast *Let's Talk About Shakespeare*. "He's the father of the national culture; she's the kind of mother of the nation; obviously they should have been in some sort of relationship."

Shakespeare may have met Elizabeth I when he was a young boy

It seems 'very likely' that Shakespeare and Elizabeth I met... But they probably weren't friends

So, did Shakespeare and Elizabeth meet? The answer is: probably. "It seems very likely that when the actors played at court they would have been introduced to their host," Professor Sir Stanley Wells told *Let's Talk Shakespeare*. "We've got no direct record of that, but especially considering the high number of times that the actors went to court – and we do know also that some of the actors became very friendly with members of the aristocracy."

However, it is unlikely they were close, or even friendly. The Queen's friendships were always a topic of intense gossip, and there is no record of any whispers about the two. In fact, they had every reason not to like each other – Shakespeare had known Catholic sympathies at odds with the Protestant Queen.

The playwright often painted royalty in an unfavourable light. In 1601, a visitor reported that Elizabeth commented wryly, "I am Richard the Second, know ye not that?" and complained that Shakespeare's drama "was played fortie times in open streets and houses." She must not have been too angry with him though, because the Lord Chamberlain's Men performed six times at court the next winter. It is also claimed that shortly before she died, Elizabeth requested to see *A Midsummer's Night Dream*.

There is no doubt the Queen was a great patron of the arts, and personally enjoyed them immensely. "Elizabeth was passionate about theatre, and actively protected it from the Puritans who wanted it banned," Alison Weir writes in *The Life of Elizabeth I*. "In 1583, she formed her own theatre company, the Queen's Men, of whom her favourite performer was the comic actor Richard Tarleton, whose antics could make her weep with laughter."

According to Shakespeare biographer Peter Ackroyd, there is a "pretty story" concerning the first time the future Bard may have laid eyes on the Queen. In 1575, Elizabeth stopped at Kenilworth Castle, 12 miles from his hometown of Stratford. Since Shakespeare's father, John, was a local dignitary, he would have no doubt been called upon to join in the festivities, which included pageants, masques and skits performed on an artificial lake. It

has been surmised that he may have brought 11-year-old William along, and some have pointed to lines in A Midsummer's Night Dream and Twelfth Night which seem to allude to the event.

Chapter Eight Music is Shakespeare's Times

Forty-third Slide.

Forty-fourth Slide.

Forty-fifth Slide.

Forty-sixth Slide.

Forty-seventh Slide.

Forty-eighth Slide.

Music-video Five **Shakespearian music**

Chapter Nine Life in His Times

Forty-ninth Slide.

Fiftieth Slide.

Would you have liked to live in Shakespeare's day?

In Shakespeare's time they used to eat bread, porridge, almonds, fish, eggs and honey.

Other foods popular at the time bread, butter, beer, stew of mutton or beef or Other foods popular at the time bread, butter, beer, stew of mutton or beef or veal, rabbit and chicken, fresh and salt water fish, oysters, vegetables and fruits, strawberries, hens, geese, deer with sauces of musk, saffron, and ambergis

They used to drink wine ale, mead and if available water.

From **Shakespeare's** England (1917). Though officially frowned upon*, **duels** for the sake of honour continued in **Shakespeare's** lifetime. His contemporary, Ben Jonson, fought a **duel** with another actor, Gabriel Spenser, and was found guilty of manslaughter*.

Fifty-first Slide.

Fifty-second Slide.

Music-video Six **Shakespearian music**

Fifty-third Slide.

Chapter Ten Final Facts

Fifty-fourth Slide.

Music-video Seven **Final facts**

Fifty-fifth Slide.

Chapter Eleven Bad jokes

Fifty-sixth Slide.

Fifty-seventh Slide.