The Life and Times of William Shakespeare
Shakespeare was born in 1564 in a town called Stratford-upon-Avon. It was north of London.
• His father, John Shakespeare, owned a shop as a glove maker and also held several government positions, including Mayor of Stratford.
He learned Latin in his grammar school as a child.
In Stratford-Upon Avon, he watched pageants and shows during holidays, enjoyed fairs twice a year and enjoyed traveling companies of actors which would perform there.
• In 1582 at the age of 18, he married Anne Hathaway who was 26.
• He had a daughter Susanna and twins named Hamnet and Judith.
He left Stratford for London to advance his literary career and become an actor.
In London he became a shareholder in an acting company called The Lord Chamberlain’s Men as well as the primary playwright and an actor.
He would often perform at the court of Queen Elizabeth I.
During the years of the plague, he would write poetry since the theaters were often closed. It was considered by the Elizabethans to be more important to write poetry than to write plays.
He wrote 154 sonnets during “a time when sonneteering was in vogue in London.”
After the plague he wrote about 2 plays a year. Shakespeare wrote a total of 37 plays. This made William a wealthy man.
His first play performed at the Globe Theater was *Julius Caesar*. 

![Poster for the movie Julius Caesar](image)
In 1599 he became partial owner of the Globe Theater. He held 10% of its shares.
After the death of Queen Elizabeth, her successor King James I licensed Shakespeare and his acting group to be called “The King’s Men”.
At the end of his life, Bill returned to Stratford-upon-Avon to retire. He died in 1616.
He is considered the greatest dramatist in the world.
He is considered the greatest English poet.
He had a clear understanding of human nature and created dramatic situations that relate to all human beings. (universality)