



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

William Shakespeare



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William Shakespeare 威廉 莎士比亚

A Famous English Writer 著名的英国作家

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习。

Of all the famous English writers, probably the best known is William Shakespeare.

He was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1564 on April the 23rd. His father was an important man in town so Shakespeare had a good upbringing. Shakespeare probably went to school (although no records survive to prove this) but not university. He got married when he was 18 to Anne Hathaway and the couple had 3 children.

Shakespeare wrote 38 plays and 154 sonnets (a sonnet is a kind of poem). He began working in his home town of Stratford but by 1592 was writing in London. He became rich enough to buy a house in the capital and one in Stratford.

He wrote sad stories called tragedies, like Romeo and Juliet, funny stories or comedies, romantic stories and stories about historical figures such as Julius Caesar.

Shakespeare died on his birthday in 1616, almost 400 years ago. But why is his work still popular today?

His work looked at common human themes, such as betrayal, murder, lust, power, ambition and love. These themes are as much a part of human nature today as they were all those years ago and are the themes we see in modern soap operas and Hollywood films. Even though his theatre, The Globe, burned down in 1613 it was rebuilt in London in 1997 and you can still see his plays performed there today.

Shakespeare's influence on the English language can still be felt today. We talk about "fair play", meaning honest behaviour but this phrase was first used by Shakespeare. He coined the phrase "you can have too much of a good thing". And it was Shakespeare who came up with the expression to disappear "into thin air" which we still use today when we lose something.

Shakespeare's work has been translated into every major language in the world. And perhaps we'll still be as fascinated by his work 400 years from now as we've been for almost the last 400.



Glossary 词汇表

best known – 最有名的	upbringing – 教育
survive – 存活	couple – 夫妻俩
plays – 戏剧	poem – 诗
comedies – 喜剧	romantic – 浪漫的
historical figures – 历史人物	common human themes – 广泛大众题材
betrayal – 背叛	lust – 欲望, 贪欲
ambition – 雄心, 志气	soap operas – 肥皂剧
theatre – 剧院	rebuilt – 重建
influence – 影响	honest behaviour – 正当的行为
coined the phrase – 将一盛行已久的惯用语当作新鲜成语使用	translated – 翻译

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真？哪句是假？请圈出正确答案。

1. Shakespeare graduated from Oxford University. True / False
2. Shakespeare began writing in London and then moved to Stratford. True / False
3. He was born and died on April the 23rd. True/ False
4. His plays were about the lives and feelings of everyday people. True / False
5. Some of Shakespeare's phrases that his face looked good on TV. True / False

2. Reading Quiz 2 阅读测验 2

Answer the following questions about the text. You should write a short answer (1 to 6 words). 用1-6个词简单回答以下问题。

1. Where was Shakespeare born?

2. How many children did Shakespeare have?

3. How many plays did Shakespeare write?

4. What type of story is Romeo and Juliet?

5. What does 'fair play' mean?

Now choose the correct answer, a, b or c. 从a, b, c中选择最佳答案。

6. Shakespeare wrote plays about common human _____
a. stories b. poems c. themes
7. Shakespeare's themes can be seen in _____ and films.
a. soap operas b. Hollywood c. theatre
8. Shakespeare has _____ English.
a. changed b. influenced c. damaged
9. Shakespeare has been translated into every _____ language.
a. major b. mayor c. minor
10. Shakespeare is a very _____ writer.
a. known b. little-known c. well-known

3. Summary Completion 完成短文

Complete the summary with words from the box.

从下列词表中选词填空。

comedies	major	murder	plays	poems
rebuilt	theatre	themes	tragedies	upbringing

Shakespeare (1523 – 1616) had a good (1)_____. He went to a good school, but he didn't go to university. He wrote 38 (2)_____ and 154 (3)_____, or sonnets. His (4)_____, The Globe, was (5)_____ in 1997.

He wrote sad stories, or (6)_____, as well as (7) _____ (funny stories) and romantic stories. He wrote about common (8)_____

like betrayal, (9)_____, lust, power and ambition.

His work has been translated into every (10)_____ language.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with William Shakespeare in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (g), vertically (i) or diagonally (m)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与威廉莎士比亚有关的英语单词来。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的 (g) 垂直的 (i) 或对角的 (m) 形式出现。

t	h	e	a	c	t	i	n	c	o	m	w
i	a	c	t	i	n	g	c	o	m	e	r
n	o	c	h	t	r	a	g	g	e	d	i
g	e	t	e	v	p	c	o	m	c	o	t
p	m	i	a	b	l	o	g	l	o	v	e
l	u	s	t	w	o	w	w	e	m	e	r
a	s	w	r	r	v	e	p	o	e	m	a
y	t	a	e	i	a	r	o	a	d	t	c
p	o	w	e	t	a	g	w	d	y	l	t
o	l	r	i	t	e	r	e	y	d	u	i
m	c	a	m	e	d	y	r	d	w	s	n
e	d	y	w	r	i	t	o	r	y	s	n

play	writer	comedy	tragedy	poem
theatre	power	acting	love	lust

Answers 答案

1. Reading Quiz 1 阅读测验

1. Shakespeare graduated from Oxford University.
False
2. Shakespeare began writing in London and then moved to Stratford. False
3. He was born and died on April the 23rd. False
4. His plays were about human feelings and emotions
True
5. We use some of Shakespeare's phrases today.
True

3. Summary Completion 完成短文

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. upbringing | 2. plays |
| 3. poems | 4. theatre |
| 5. rebuilt | 6. tragedies |
| 7. comedies | 8. themes |
| 9. murder | 10. major |

2. Reading Quiz 2 阅读测验 2

1. He was born in Stratford-Upon-Avon.
2. He had three children.
3. He wrote 38 plays.
4. It's a tragedy.
Romeo and Juliet is a tragedy.
5. It means 'honest behaviour'.
'Fair play' means 'honest behaviour'.
6. c
7. a
8. b
9. a
10. c

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

										w	
	a	c	t	i	n	g				r	
			h							i	
			e					c		t	
p			a					l	o	v	e
l	u	s	t						m		r
a			r	r				p	o	e	m
y			e		a			o		d	
						g	w		y		
							e				
							r	d			
									y		