

Monday

William Shakespeare



William Shakespeare's Family

William Shakespeare is thought to have been born on 23rd April, 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. William was the third child of John and Mary Shakespeare. His father was a leather merchant and his mother was a local-landed heiress, which basically meant that she came from a wealthy family.

Shakespeare, the Young Man

On November 28th, 1582, at the age of 18, William married Anne Hathaway. Anne was 26 years old when they got married.

They had a daughter called Susanna in 1583. Two years later, Anne gave birth to twins - a boy called Hamnet and a girl called Judith. Tragically, at the age of 11, Hamnet died.

In the mid-1580s, it is thought that William arrived in London. When he first arrived, it is believed that he worked as a horse attendant at some of London's theatres.

By 1592, he was earning money as an actor and a playwright.



Shakespeare the Playwright

William started to sell some of his written work and by 1597, he was beginning to earn a lot of money, so he bought the second-largest house in his hometown of Stratford.

He did not return home very often as it took about four days to get from London to Stratford on horseback. William only ever went home during the forty days of Lent when the theatres were closed!

Shakespeare's Plays

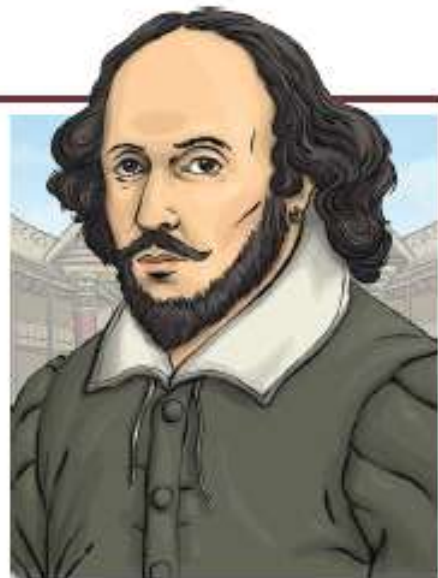
Shakespeare wrote plays which were tragedies (very sad plays) and comedies, which were amusing. Some of his tragedies are Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet and King Lear. Some of his comedies are A Midsummer Night's Dream and All's Well That Ends Well.

He wrote about themes which people could relate to: jealousy, anger, love, romance, religion and war.

A Lasting Legacy

Because of Shakespeare, there are over three hundred words and well-known phrases in the English language that he invented. Some of them are:

all that glitters is not gold	fair-play
barefaced	bedazzled
hobnob	watchdog
wild goose chase	lacklustre



William Shakespeare died on April 23rd, 1616, which was the same day as his birthday, at the age of 52. It is thought that he died from a fever.

Shakespeare had written his will a few months before he died and famously, and rather strangely, left his wife his 'second best bed' and all his other possessions to his daughter.



Each year around the 23rd April, the streets of Stratford-upon-Avon are filled with music, song and performers in celebration of the life of William Shakespeare.

Questions

1. When was William Shakespeare born? Tick one.

23rd April, 1566 24th April, 1564 23rd April, 1564 20th April, 1582

2. Match the sentences.

William's mother

in Stratford.

William's father

was from a wealthy family.

William

was a leather merchant

The family lived

was the third child.

3. What were the names of Shakespeare's daughters? Tick two.

Susannah Judith Anne Mary

4. What word closely matches the meaning of 'tragically'? Tick one.

Unhappy Devastating Sad Gloomy

5. Summarise the main points in the paragraphs in the blue box.

a) _____

b) _____

6. Identify two tragedies that Shakespeare wrote. Tick two.

All's Well That Ends Well A Midsummer Night's Dream

Romeo and Juliet Hamlet

7. Why do you think Shakespeare wrote plays about themes people could relate to?

8. Choose one of the words that Shakespeare created and use a dictionary to find out its meaning.

9. True or False? Which of these sentences are false? Make them true.

False

Shakespeare died aged 52 years old.

Shakespeare died the day before his birthday.

Shakespeare possibly died from a fever.

Shakespeare died in 1616.

10. Which fact has interested you the most and why?

Tuesday

Ruby Bridges

Ruby Bridges was born in 1954 and when she was 6, she was the first African-American child to go to a school with white children in Southern America.

Schools for Only White Children

Before 1954, black and white children had to go to separate schools. Even though it became law for black and white children to go to the same school, it took a few years for it to happen and even then, there was a lot of trouble.

When Ruby was in nursery school, she took a test to see if she could go to the school for white children. Ruby's father was worried what would happen if she went to the white school, but her mother was sure that it would be better for Ruby's learning. Many people think that the test was made hard so that not many children would pass it. However, in 1960, Ruby and her parents found out that she had passed the test so they made plans to take her to the white school.



The First Day at School

People expected there to be trouble for Ruby when she started at William Frantz School, so to keep her safe, she was driven and walked into school by four American police officers called 'US Marshals'. At school, there were lots of people who were shouting rude names and throwing things because they did not want African-American children coming to the white school. There was so much trouble that the white children stayed at home, so there were no lessons on that day. A famous painting was done by Norman Rockwell of this famous day called 'The Problem We All Live With'.

The First Year

Even though Ruby kept going to school, only one white teacher agreed to teach her and she was called Mrs Henry. The other parents even kept their white children away from Ruby, so for a whole year, it was only Ruby and Mrs Henry together in one classroom. Thankfully, after the first year, white children started to return to Ruby's class and she did not need the US Marshals to take her to

school. She found the first year very hard and knew that children did not want to play with her because of the colour of her skin.

What Happened Next?

Ruby went on to finish high school and work as a travel agent. She had four sons and is now a civil rights activist, which means that she does anything she can to make life fair for black and white people together.



In 2014, a statue of Ruby was placed outside William Frantz School. In 2001, she was awarded a medal from President Bill Clinton and in 2011, she looked at the Norman Rockwell painting with President Barak Obama and he said to her,

"I think it's fair to say that if it hadn't have been for you guys, I might not be here".

Ruby Bridges Questions

1. What did Ruby Bridges do that made her famous when she was 6 years old?

2. What did Ruby have to do to be able to go to the white school?

3. What are American police officers called?

4. In the 'First Day of School' paragraph, why were people shouting and throwing things?

5. What was the name of the painting that Norman Rockwell painted?

6. People say that Ruby was very brave – do you agree and why?

7. Do you think Mrs Henry was a kind person? Explain why.

8. Find as many verbs as you can in the last paragraph.

9. Which two American presidents has she met?

10. Look at the final quote from President Barack Obama. How have people like Ruby helped him?

Wednesday

VE Day

What is VE Day?

VE Day stands for Victory in Europe Day and is celebrated on 8th May. It was the end of six years of suffering, misery and courage during the Second World War in Europe. Although it was not the end of the Second World War, it was the end of warfare in Europe.

How did it happen?

On the morning of 7th May, 1945, following Hitler's death in the April, the German President of the Third Reich, Grand Admiral Donitz, gave orders that General Jodl should go to the American Head Quarters based in France. Jodl surrendered on behalf of the Germans, to the Western and Russian officers, and agreed to all their demands.

The Announcement

The British people began celebrating as soon as they heard the news. Although no official announcement had been made, bell ringers in the churches around the country, were on standby to ring out the good news when an official notice was given.

Joseph Stalin, the leader of the Russians, was taking his time to announce the surrender, but the British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, did not want to give Stalin the chance to hold up what everyone already knew! Churchill made the following announcement at 19.40, 7th May.



"In accordance with arrangements between three great powers, tomorrow, Tuesday, will be treated as Victory in Europe Day and will be regarded as a holiday."



The Effects of War

In Britain, during the war in Europe, half a million homes were destroyed, thousands of ordinary people were killed and millions of lives had been torn apart.



Did you know ...?

The three great powers were Britain, France and the Soviet Union, now known as Russia.

Bring on the Celebrations!

People began decorating the streets with banners, bunting and ribbons. They organised street parties where neighbours shared food, which was still rationed, and listened to the radio news broadcasts.

King George VI and the Queen appeared eight times on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, and their two daughters, Princess Margaret and

Princess Elizabeth – who is now Her Majesty the Queen – walked amongst the crowds! Churchill told the crowds, "This is your victory!"

Churchill spoke to the nation, reminding them that although Japan still had to be defeated, and the war was not yet over, for now Great Britain "May allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing. God Save the King!"

The End of the VE Day

At 21:00, King George VI made a final broadcast to the nation. Buckingham Palace was lit up in floodlights for the first time since the start of the war, and two searchlights formed a V, the sign of peace, above St Paul's Cathedral in London.

All the lights were turned off again the next day.



Although everyone was pleased the war in Europe had ended, for many the celebrations would have been a sad reminder of the loss of many loved ones. They would have been fighting abroad, caught by the enemy or died in air raids attacks. This meant that many did not completely feel the lasting joy of the time.

Questions

1. In detail, explain what the VE Day ended.

2. What did General Jodl do?

3. What does 'the bell ringers were on standby' mean?

4. Explain, in your own words, the effects of war in Europe, on Britain.

5. What did Stalin do, and how did this affect Britain?

6. What date was VE Day?

7. Name two ways people might have lost loved ones during the war in Europe.

8. Describe how people celebrated VE Day.

9. Why do you think the author has used an exclamation mark when commenting on the princesses walking around in the crowds in London?

10. Was this the end of the war? Explain your thoughts.

11. Why do you think two searchlights were lit in the shape of a V?

Thursday

The Great Plague

What was the Great Plague?

During the summer of 1665, London was affected by a horrible disease.

This became known as the Great Plague.

People were terrified of the plague, as there was no cure.

It lasted from 1665 until 1666.

Why was there no cure?

At this time, medicine and health care were very different than they are today.

Hygiene was often very poor; towns and villages could be dirty.

People had a different understanding of medicine at this time.



How did the plague spread?

- At first, people were not sure how the plague was spread.
- Some doctors felt that bad air was to blame, and breathing in made people ill.
- Others blamed farm animals for spreading the disease.
- However, the cause of the plague was rats.
- Rats carried bacteria and fleas.
- When the fleas bit people, they infected them.
- When people sneezed and coughed, they spread the disease even more.



What happened if someone caught the plague?

The plague spread very quickly. Within three to four days of catching the disease, people were dying.

Some symptoms included:

- painful swelling of the skin;
- blisters;
- headaches;
- sickness.



If someone from a family got the plague, the whole house was closed up and nobody was allowed to leave, or enter the house.

A red cross was marked on the front door of any these houses, so people knew that they had the plague.

As many as 100 000 people had died in London by the end of 1665.

How was the plague stopped?

Cold weather – Autumn 1666. This killed off many of the rats and the bacteria.

The Great Fire of London – 1666. This destroyed many rat-infested buildings. This meant there were less rats to spread the disease.



Plague Remedies

As there was no cure, people tried different methods to try to prevent them from getting the plague.

- Small bunches of flowers: people thought that holding them to their noses, would stop them from breathing in any bad air or bacteria.
- Lucky charms: people wore them to ward off the plague, one example is wearing a dead toad around the neck!
- Soaking money in vinegar: when paying for goods, money was soaked in vinegar before giving it to someone else.

Questions

1. When did the plague happen?

2. What reasons did people think caused the plague to spread?

3. What actually caused the spread of the plague?

4. How could people tell if a household was affected by the plague?

5. How did people try to prevent themselves from catching the plague?

6. What does prevent mean?

7. How did the cold weather help to stop the spread of the plague?

Friday

Reading

Have you finished reading a book?

Your teachers would love to hear what you thought about it. In your notebook, try answering one of these questions about your book.

What surprised you in the book?

Who would you recommend the text to and why?

Draw and write about your favourite character describing what the character looks like and their personality.

Did you like how the book ended? Why?

Write a different ending for your story.

Who was your favourite character and why?

Can you think of any other stories like this? How are they similar?

Which information did you find the most interesting in your non-fiction book?

Is there a good/bad character? Who is it? How can you tell?

You can use your sound chart to help sound out words you don't know in your reading or spell words when answering questions.

Complex Speed Sounds										
Consonant sounds										
f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng
ff	ll	mm	nn	rr	ss	ve	zz	ti		nk
ph	le	mb	kn	wr	se		s	ci		
					c		se			
					ce					
b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x
bb	k	dd	gg		g	pp		tt	wh	y
	ck				ge					ch
	ch				dge					tch
Vowel sounds										
a	e	i	o	u	ay	ee	igh	ow		
	ea				a-e	y	i-e	o-e		
					ai	ea	ie	oa		
						e	i	o		
							y			
oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy	ire	ear	ure
u-e			oor	are	ur	ow	oi			
ue			ore	er	er					
ew			aw							
			au							