

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Introduction to Shakespeare Guided Notes

### **His Life**

1. William Shakespeare was born in \_\_\_\_\_, England on April 23<sup>rd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. Stratford is about 94 miles from London, where he spent most of his life.
2. He lived during the \_\_\_\_\_, a time of renewed interest in the arts, architecture, literature, and learning. (14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> centuries)
3. The word “Renaissance” means \_\_\_\_\_ or revival.

### **His Family**

Shakespeare’s family was “well-off” \$\$\$

4. His father, \_\_\_\_\_ Shakespeare, was bailiff (\_\_\_\_\_) of Stratford. He was also a glove maker, shopkeeper, and landowner
5. His mother, \_\_\_\_\_ Arden, inherited land from her family. Her land was later passed on to William.
6. Shakespeare had \_\_\_\_\_ siblings!!! Three of them died in youth due to the black plague.

### **His Education**

7. William went to grammar school, where he studied Latin grammar, Latin \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ (the uses of language).

This was his only education (that we know of).

### **His Wife & Kids**

8. In 1582, Shakespeare married \_\_\_\_\_ Hathaway at the age of 18. She was 8 years older than him.
9. Together, they had \_\_\_\_\_ children: Susanna, Hamnet, and Judith. (Hamnet and Judith were fraternal twins).
10. \_\_\_\_\_ died at age 11, likely from the plague. Some believe his death may have inspired some of Shakespeare’s famous sonnets and soliloquies.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **His Achievements**

11. William Shakespeare was recognized as a successful \_\_\_\_\_ on the London stage. He became a member of a theatrical company called the Lord Chamberlain's Men, which was eventually renamed as \_\_\_\_\_ . He was also recognized as a leading poet during his time.

12. He wrote:

-At least \_\_\_\_\_ plays

-At least \_\_\_\_\_ sonnets (specific kind of poem)

-Many other poems

### **His Death**

13. Shakespeare died on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1616 (his \_\_\_\_\_).

His cause of death seems to still be a mystery.

He was buried at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Stratford-upon-Avon, England.

### **Why He's Important Today**

14. William Shakespeare coined thousands of common \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that we still use today.

He has influenced every writer of the English language who followed his time.

15. The stories he created and the themes he explores are both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. People in ANY time period ANYWHERE in the world can relate to many of his works in some way.

16. His works may help us learn about the \_\_\_\_\_. (How do we operate as human beings: why we think, feel, and do the things we do).

His writing style is unlike any other writer of the English language. Reading Shakespeare provides MANY opportunities for learning.

His plays are still performed around the world, to this day.

His stories are still recreated for our entertainment.