

# *William Shakespeare*

*1564-1616*



*Widely regarded as the  
greatest writer in English  
Literature*

## *Shakespeare*

- *1563-1616*
- *England*
- *wrote 37 plays*
- *about 154 sonnets*
- *started out as an actor*



## *Stage Celebrity*

- *Actor for Lord Chamberlain's Men (London theater co.)*
- *Principal playwright for company as well.*

## *Globe Theatre*

- The Globe Theatre was built in 1599 by Shakespeare's company Lord Chamberlain's Men.
- destroyed by fire on 29 June 1613.
- second Globe Theatre was built on the same site by June 1614 and closed in 1642.
- A modern reconstruction of the Globe, named "Shakespeare's Globe", opened in 1997 approximately 750 feet (230 m) from the site of the original theatre.





## *The Theatre*

- *Plays produced for the general public*
- *Roofless*
- *No artificial lighting*
- *Courtyard surrounded by 3 levels of galleries*

## *Actors*

- *Only men and boys*



- *Young boys whose voices had not changed play women's roles*
- *Considered indecent for women to appear on stage*



## *Shakespeare wrote:*

- *Comedies*
- *Histories*
- *Tragedies*
  - \* *Macbeth*
  - \* *Othello*



## *Tragedy (Shakespearean)*

- *Drama where the central character/s suffer disaster/great misfortune*
  - *In many tragedies, downfall results from*
    - *Fate*
    - *Character flaw/Fatal flaw*
    - *Combination of the two*

## *Tragic Hero*

- tragic hero is a character in a work of fiction (often the protagonist) who commits an action or makes a mistake which eventually leads to his or her defeat.

*Macbeth*



## *Macbeth (1605)*

*Shakespeare's shortest and bloodiest tragedy, Macbeth tells the story of a brave Scottish general (Macbeth) who receives a prophecy from a trio of sinister witches that one day he will become king of Scotland.*

*Consumed with ambitious thoughts and spurred to action by his wife, Macbeth murders King Duncan and seizes the throne for himself.*



*He begins his reign wracked with guilt and fear and soon becomes a tyrannical ruler, as he is forced to commit more and more murders to protect himself from enmity and suspicion. The bloodbath swiftly propels Macbeth and Lady Macbeth to arrogance, madness, and death.*



## *Othello*

Othello is a highly esteemed general in the service of Venice. Iago is Othello's ambitious friend. Othello promotes the Michael Cassio to the position of personal lieutenant and Iago is deadly jealous. Iago begins an evil and malicious campaign against the hero.



## *Othello*

Othello elopes with Desdemona but Iago starts to plot against them. Othello becomes jealous and suspicious of Desdemona. He confides in Iago that he plans to poison Desdemona. Plots and murders ensue and Othello returns to the castle to kill his innocent wife. He eventually smothers her to death.

## *Othello*



Emilia tells Othello the truth about the scheming Iago. Othello wounds Iago, then kills himself. Iago kills Emilia.

## *Fact or Fiction?*

- *Macbeth was a real king of Scotland.*
- *He reigned from 1040-1057.*
- *Unlike the Macbeth in Shakespeare's play*
  - *The real Macbeth had a legitimate claim to the throne*
  - *The real Macbeth was a strong leader*
  - *The real Macbeth's reign was successful*

## *Shakespeare's Language*

- Easily recognized in 17<sup>th</sup> century-difficult for 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Words can be easily “translated” into Modern English.
- Familiarization with words makes it easier to understand and appreciate story.

## *Translate the Sentence Below:*

- *Attend thou instructor's counsel and mark thy text an thou resolve to have hap with Macbeth.*

## *Try using the Language*

- *Now write 2 sentences using Shakespeare's language. Your prompts are below:*
  1. *Write a sentence expressing your affection for a boy or girl.*
  2. *Write a sentence expressing your feelings about starting a unit on Macbeth.*

## *Literary Terms*

- Direct Characterization
- Indirect Characterization
- Symbolism
- Theme
- Irony
- Soliloquy