

Celebrate the Bard's Birthday!

INSTRUCTIONS: Follow the steps below to carve out some time on April 23 (or any day of the year!) to celebrate the life and work of William Shakespeare!

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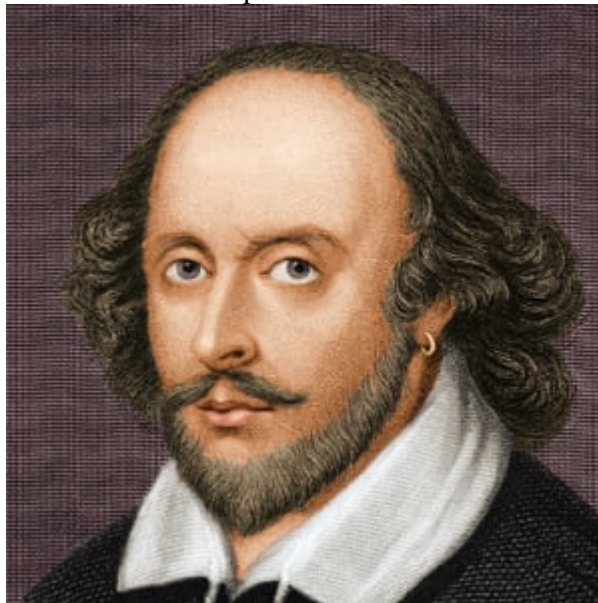
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Engage

April 23 is a BIG day--the estimated birthday of William Shakespeare, the world's most famous playwright! The Folger Shakespeare Library is hosting the largest birthday EVER for Shakespeare! Read about this momentous opportunity [here](#)!



Why do people STILL celebrate William Shakespeare's birthday nearly half a century after the year of his death? Read [this article](#) for an overview of Shakespeare's AMAZING life!



Explore

Let's explore some of the most important locations in Shakespeare's life--his hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon, Holy Trinity Church, and the Globe Theatre!



[Stratford-upon-Avon tour](#)



Holy Trinity Church, site of Shakespeare's baptism and burial

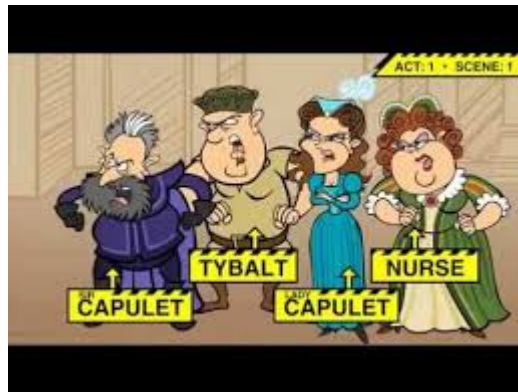


[Tour of the Globe Theatre](#)

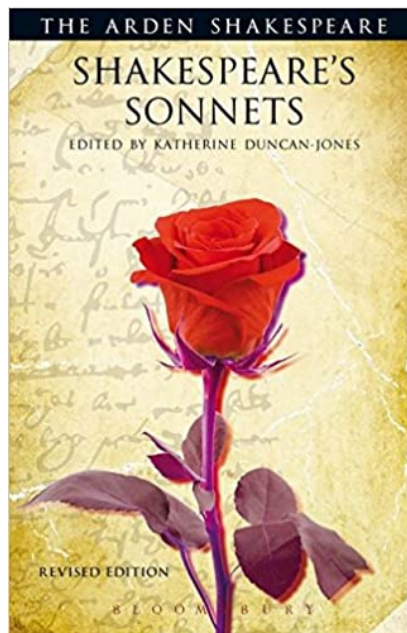
Experience

In order to experience the beauty of Shakespeare's language--

1. Perform a scene from a play. Don't be intimidated by this idea! Check out these [short, entertaining summaries](#) of some of Shakespeare's most studied plays. Have some fun!



2. Read a sonnet. [This list](#) of the Top 10 is a good place to start. Or, if you want to, [listen to a sonnet](#). [Here's](#) a helpful explanation of the punctuation in Shakespeare's works.



3. Watch a [Kenneth Branagh](#) film. There are so many good choices! [Here's a suggested Top 10](#).

Extend

In my class, we ALWAYS wrote a birthday sonnet for Brother Will! If you're feeling especially poetic, try writing your own sonnet. [Here's a helpful how-to!](#) You could have a little more fun by incorporating some [words Shakespeare is credited with inventing!](#)

Other resources

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