Shakespeare's Life

By *Sarah Gudgeon*

1   Read

Who is William Shakespeare? He is one of the world's most famous writers. He was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in England, in 1564. He wrote 39 plays in his lifetime. He was also an actor and a poet. He was part of a theatre company and they performed at important theatres like the Globe and Blackfriars.

Why are his plays so popular? Because they are about real-life emotions like love, hate, and greed and the differences between the rich and poor. And of course because the plays are beautifully written by a master of the English language.

Shakespeare became famous when he moved to London in his twenties and he is still famous today. The stories of rivalry between families and friends were relevant in the 16th century and are still relevant now. Shakespeare died at home in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1616.

2   Circle the correct answer

      a.   William Shakespeare is / isn't a very famous writer.

      b.   Shakespeare wrote more / less than thirty plays.

      c.   Shakespeare's plays are/ aren't based on people's feelings.

      d.   Shakespeare wrote in very good/ bad English.

      e.   Shakespeare is / isn't from London.

3   Can you name six Shakespeare plays?

4   Match each famous quote to the correct Shakespeare play?

a. Henry IV	**1.** To be or not to be: that is the question
b. Romeo and Juliet	**2.** A man can die but once
c. Twelfth Night	**3.** Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?
d. Hamlet	**4.** Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears.
e. Julius Ceasar	**5**. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them

Teachers Notes

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2   Circle the correct answer

     a.   is

     b.   more

     c.   are

     d.   good

     e.   isn't

3   Can you name six Shakespeare plays?

They can use the examples in exercise 4 if they can't think of enough or others including Macbeth, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Tempest

4   Match each famous quote to the correct Shakespeare play?

     a. → 2

     b. → 3

     c. → 5

     d. → 1

     e. → 4