

William Shakespeare: How well do you know The Bard?

The Bard of Avon: More Than Just a Playwright

William Shakespeare wasn't just a guy who wrote some pretty good plays (don't get us wrong, he definitely did that too). This Renaissance man was a poet, playwright, and actor who left a lasting impact on the English language and the world of theater.

Shakespeare's Words: They're Everywhere!

We use Shakespeare's words all the time, even if we don't realize it. You can thank dear Will next time you say any of the following:

“fashionable” (“Troilus and Cressida”), “sanctimonious” (“Measure for Measure”), “eyeball” (“A Midsummer Night’s Dream”) and “lackluster” (“As You Like It”); and the expressions “foregone conclusion” (“Othello”), “in a pickle” (“The Tempest”), “wild goose chase” (“Romeo and Juliet”) and “one fell swoop” (“Macbeth”).

The Bard's Baby Names

Shakespeare wasn't just the king of words, he was also the godfather of some pretty awesome names: Olivia, Miranda, Jessica, and Cordelia are all thanks to him.

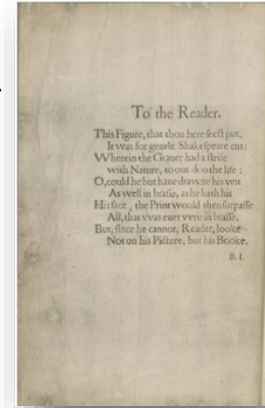
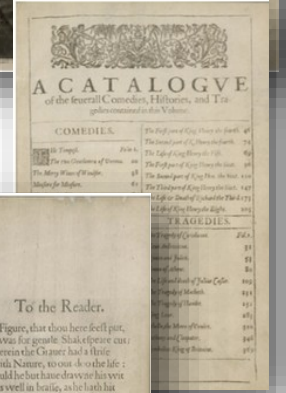
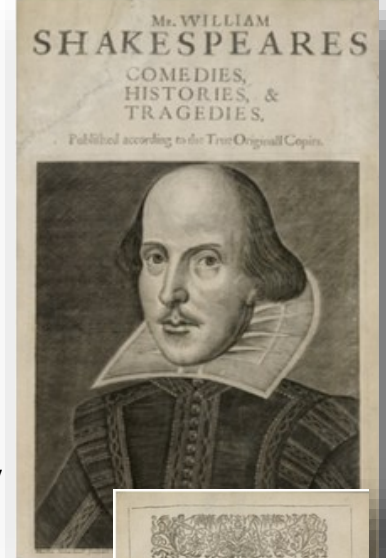
Shakespeare's Many Names

Believe it or not, Shakespeare's name wasn't always Shakespeare. In fact, there are over 80 different spellings of his name from his lifetime! In the handful of signatures that have survived, the Bard’s name is never spelled “William Shakespeare.” Spellings range from “Shappere” to “Shaxberd.” However spelled, Shakespeare is thought to derive from the Old English words “schakken” (“to brandish”) and “speer” (“spear”); probably referring to a confrontational or argumentative person.

A Bird-Brained Bard

Shakespeare sure loved his birds. His plays reference over 600 different feathery friends, from swans and doves to sparrows and turkeys.!

So, next time you say "that's a foregone conclusion" or write a letter to your friend Olivia, remember you're using a little bit of the Bard's magic!



Photos: Shakespeare's Globe

The Powerhouse Duo Behind Juliet and Romeo

Now meet the impressive creative team behind the hilarious new musical. This dynamic duo brings a unique blend of Broadway expertise and artistic vision to this fresh take on a classic tale.

Paul Gordon: This Tony-nominated composer is a true triple threat, writing music, lyrics, and the books for his shows. Known for his work on beloved adaptations like *Emma* and *Pride & Prejudice*, Gordon has also penned chart-topping pop hits. His meticulous approach starts with a strong foundation – he crafts the story first, then seamlessly weaves in the music.



Paul Gordon



Curtis Moore

Curtis Moore: As a multi-talented artist, Moore brings a wealth of experience to the table. An Emmy Award-nominee for his work on TV and has composed music for acclaimed stage productions like *Hamlet* and *Richard III*, Moore's contributions to *Juliet and Romeo* promise to be both innovative and captivating.

Hold onto Your Hats, Capulets: Life in 14th-Century Verona versus Life in New York City Today

If the Capulets did find themselves in modern day New York City, or if our main character Sawyer Bloom found himself in 14-century Verona, how shocked would they be with each world?

14th Century Verona

Food:

- **Simple Diet:** The average person's diet was simple, consisting mainly of bread, vegetables (onions, beans, cabbage), and grains.
- **Meat:** Meat was a luxury, usually reserved for special occasions. Poultry, pork, and game were common.
- **Wine:** Wine was a common beverage, often diluted with water. Often times wine was safer and cleaner to drink compared to water.

Entertainment:

- **Festivals and Feasts:** Religious festivals, markets, and public spectacles provided opportunities for entertainment and social interaction.
- **Music and Dance:** Music and dance were popular forms of entertainment, often performed in the streets or in private homes.
- **Storytelling and Theater:** Storytellers would entertain crowds with tales of romance, adventure, and the supernatural. While early forms of theater existed, it was not as developed as it would become later in the Renaissance.

Fashion:

- **Elaborate Clothing:** Wealthy individuals wore elaborate clothing made from fine fabrics like silk and velvet. Bright colors and intricate patterns were also popular.
- **Hats and Headwear:** Headwear was an important fashion accessory, with styles varying by social class.
- **Jewelry:** Jewelry was worn by both men and women, often as a display of wealth and status.

Modern Day New York City

Food:

- **Pizza:** NYC's pizza history began with the opening of the first pizzeria in 1905. Italian immigrants brought pizza to the city, and the New York slice was born. Sal and Carmine's Pizza is referenced in the show—a pizza place that Artistic Director and show's Director Michael Unger adores! It is also three doors down from his NYC apt!
- **A Melting Pot of Flavors:** NYC's food scene is a vibrant reflection of its diverse population. From iconic bagels to authentic dishes from every corner of the globe, the city offers an unparalleled culinary experience.
- **A Global Stage for Innovation:** Top chefs push boundaries, experimenting with new techniques, ingredients, and flavor combinations, making NYC a breeding ground for culinary creativity.

Entertainment:

- **World-Class Culture:** NYC boasts world-renowned museums, theaters, and concert halls. Broadway shows, opera performances, and art exhibitions are major draws.
- **Parks and Recreation:** Central Park, among others, provides green oasis for relaxation, jogging, and outdoor concerts.

Fashion:

- **Trendsetting:** NYC is a global fashion capital, known for its cutting-edge style and trendsetting designers.
- **Diverse Styles:** You'll see everything from high fashion to street style, with a strong emphasis on individuality and self-expression.
- **Comfortable Yet Chic:** Many New Yorkers prioritize comfort in their everyday wear, often opting for sneakers, jeans, and comfortable layers.