

William Shakespeare- Romeo and Juliet

Shakespeare

- Comedy starts sad and ends happy
- Tragedy starts happy and ends sad

William Shakespeare

- Born in April 1564
- Born in Stratford-upon-Avon
- His parents: John Shakespeare and Mary Arden
- At age 18, married Anne Hathaway
- Had 3 children: Susanna, Judith and Hamnet (twins)
- By the early 1590's, he was established in London as both an actor and playwright
- Shakespeare died on or near April 23 in 1616.
- He was outlived by his wife and two daughters
- Hamnet had died at age 11

Shakespeare the Playwright

- A play in that time was often commissioned by an acting company which could then sell it to a publisher at its own discretion without further compensating the author.
- Shakespeare did not take part in the process of publishing his own plays.
- An important patron that supported Shakespeare was Queen Elizabeth I
- In his lifetime alone, twenty publishers bought different editions of his individual plays but none took any special steps to ensure that the text was correct.
- His name was rarely printed on his work until the 1623 publication of the First Folio because its use had little commercial value at the time.
- Shakespeare's First Folio was not published until 7 years after his death

Globe Theater

- Opened in 1599
- Burned down in 1613- it was immediately rebuilt
- Closed by the Puritans in 1642
- In 1970, a trust was established to rebuild the theater
- Reconstruction began in 1987

Women in the Theater

- The public acting of women was prohibited in the England of Shakespeare's time.
- Many times boys played the part of women due to their higher voices

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Themes in Romeo & Juliet

- Love
 - Lustful love (sexual pleasure) (selfish)
 - Infatuation (crushes)
 - "Arranged" Love
 - 100% Pure Love
- Family Feud
 - The feud between the Montagues (Romeo) and Capulets (Juliet) ends up killing their only two children
 - It was just an ancient feud: no one remembered how it started or bothered ending it.
 - If the two families had just stopped feuding earlier, the lives of the two lovers could have been saved.
- Hate
- Fate
 - Romeo and Juliet were "star-crossed lovers," as the prologue at the start of the play indicated. They had fate against them.
 - In that time, people were very weary
- Power & Control