**William Shakespeare**

-Baptized on April 26th, 1564 in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

-third child of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Shakespeare and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Arden (m. 1557). His two older sisters died in infancy, but there were three brothers and at least two other sisters who lived into childhood.

-John Shakespeare was well off: dealt in farm products and wool, owned property and was alderman, high bailiff and chief \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

-No records of Shakespeare's education. This is significant because we don’t actually know what kind of education he received so it’s hard to tell if he is actually completely \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for his plays. He probably went to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ school though.

**Adult Life**

-At \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, he married Anne Hathaway, who was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

-1583: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was born.

-1585: Twins \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were baptized.

-The time immediately after his marriage is unknown. He may have been an apprentice \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a teacher, or a provincial company actor.

-Eventually ran away to London to join a company. He started as a stage hand, also known as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and then worked his way up.

-He was established by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Some Family Dates**

-August 11, 1596: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Shakespeare's son, is buried.

-October 20, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: John Shakespeare given a coat of arms.

-September 9, 1601: John Shakespeare buried.

-September 9, 1608: Mary Shakespeare buried.

-June 5, 1607: Susanna Shakespeare married Dr. John Hall (their daughter is named \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_).

-February 10, 1616: Judith Shakespeare marries Thomas Quiney during Lent without a license and is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

-March 25, 1616: Shakespeare revises his will. He leaves his second best \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to his wife.

-April 25, 1616: Shakespeare \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Shakespeare the Writer**

-His first plays seem to have appeared in the early 1590s.

-1593: First published work is "\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_," a poem.

-1594: "The Rape of Lucrece" appears. There is believed to be an increase in poetry at this time because of an outbreak of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ closed all the theatres.

-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: His book of sonnets was published.

-1594: "\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_" is performed.

-1595: Shakespeare and his company, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, are paid to perform for the Queen.

-1599: The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Theatre is founded.

-Post-1603: The Lord Chamberlain's Men became the King's Men in honour of King \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I.

-Several plays were published during Shakespeare's life time, such as Titus Andronicus, Henry VI (Parts II and III), and a pirated edition of Romeo and Juliet, but 18 are known only because they appeared in a collected volume called the First Folio, which was published in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

-Plays weren’t published at the time because they were written quickly for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ production, collaboration happened a lot, and they weren’t thought to be reading material.

-The theatre companies owned the rights to the play and they were only usually published if the company disbanded, they needed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or the play didn’t do so well and needed to be defended against criticism.

-Sometimes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ editions were circulated and these happened when a single member of the company wanted money or someone copied down the play.

**Shakespeare’s Works and a Bit of Controversy**

-There are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ plays usually attributed to Shakespeare. Six of these have been questioned as to whether he actually wrote them.

-154 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are attributed to him.

-Some people believe there was no way he could have written the works.

-Collaboration was common, and it's likely that he worked with other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at least on some of the works.

**Shakespeare’s England**

-There was a rise of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ class during Shakespeare's age.

-London was a walled city with a population of about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

-There were no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or drains, so the city was smelly and so were the people.

-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and bloodletting were common treatments for illness.

-The major church was the Church of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ created by Henry \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and furthered by his daughter Elizabeth I.

**Elizabeth I**

-reigned 1558-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-youngest daughter of Henry VIII, and only daughter of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

-preceded to the throne by her younger brother, Edward VI, and older sister, Mary I, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mary.

-Elizabeth was known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Queen as she never married or had any children.

-Elizabeth avoided naming an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for a long time, which worried her subjects because if she died without an heir there would be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

-Eventually, Elizabeth named James \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Scotland as her heir.

**James I**

-reigned 1603-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-son of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Queen of Scots, who was executed by Elizabeth I in 1587 for treason.

-James first ruled Scotland as James VI and then took the rule of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in 1603, joining the two countries for the first time.

-November 5, 1603: Roman Catholics angry over fees for not attending Protestant services levied against them, plotted to blow up the parliament and James with them. This is called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Plot.

-They stored a large amount of gunpowder in the cellar, but the plot was discovered and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were arrested and executed.

-He believed that kings and queens were chosen by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Some More Notes about Plays**

-The source of Shakespeare's genius, was not his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He is really good at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ development.

-Additionally, you must remember that when he wrote, he could only write characters for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that he had in his troop. If his troop didn't have a certain type of actor he couldn't write the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

-You must also keep in mind that plays written at this time were mostly not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ideas. They were often based off familiar stories. The mark of a good \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was shown by how good they were at adapting a familiar story.

-In Shakespeare's plays there is a mix of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

-Plays fully in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were out of fashion at his time.

-Elevated passages, philosophically significant ideas and speeches by men of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rank are in verse.

-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and light parts or speeches are done in prose.

-The verse is almost always \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ verse (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pentameter without rhyme).

-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is used to mark the close of scenes or an important action. It also marks character entrance, and change of mood, etc.

-At the time of Shakespeare’s career, women were not allowed to act so the female roles were played by boys.

**Genres**

-At this time plays fell mostly into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ genres.

-Shakespeare wrote mostly comedies and romances during the Elizabethan period and tragedies and tragicomedies during the reign of King James.

-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: ends in the death of one or more of the main characters. Most of Shakespeare’s involve historical individuals and events.

-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: usually has a happy ending; includes jokes, farce and innuendo. Most of Shakespeare’s comedies are love stories set far away from England.

-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: a mixture of tragedy and comedy. The play seems to move towards a tragic ending, but a twist saves the characters.

-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Comedies: attacks ideas or individuals by laughing at them. Similar to comedies, but more cynical.

-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Plays: usually tell the stories of great leaders and kings. Shakespeare sometimes altered what he found in history to suit his own dramatic purposes and make the plays more exciting.

**Tragedy**

*-Macbeth* is one of ten Shakespearean plays distinctly classified as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. However, many of his other plays, such as the history plays and problem plays, have tragic elements.

-Shakespeare’s tragedies are his most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and popular plays.

-His tragedies usually feature a tragic hero.

-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Heroes: a great or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (usually of high rank) character in a dramatic tragedy who is destined for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, suffering, or defeat.

-Fate is a common thread in the tragedies, because during Shakespeare’s time many people believed in fate or destiny. So he used the idea of it to add excitement and anticipation to his stories. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ held the audience’s interest because people wanted to see if they were fulfilled.

-At the end of a tragedy, the hero and usually several other characters are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The survivors are left to start again without them.

-They often also feature aspects of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, such as ghosts or witches, and mental \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Iambic Pentameter**

-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Pentameter: A line of verse with five metrical feet. Each foot consists of one short or unstressed syllable followed by a long or stressed syllable. Each iamb (foot) has two syllables. Penta refers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. So there are five feet in each line, which means that each line has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ syllables.

-Ex. Two households, both alike in dignity.

- x / x / x / x / x /

-The rhythm can be written as da DUM. So a line of iambic pentameter would be da DUM da DUM da DUM da DUM da DUM.

Ex. So fair and foul a day I have not seen.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Macbeth**

-first printed in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, written in c 1605-1606

-based on Holinshed’s “Chronicles of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Scotland and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

-written in honour of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I, who was the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Shakespeare’s theatre company.

-James was very interested in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and wrote two books about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

-Several of the characters are ancestors of James: Duncan, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Banquo, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*-Macbeth* is the shortest tragedy Shakespeare wrote.

**Witchcraft**

-Witches were believed to have the following \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

-They could speak with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and with his help could communicate with the dead. Some could see into the future.

-They could make people fall ill by using spells and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and they could kill people at a distance.

-They could fly through the air, and make themselves \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at will.

-They use animals such as cats as disguises for the evil \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who serve them.

-They can cause bad weather and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, affecting ships at sea and spoiling the crops.

-In other words they could be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for everything and anything that went wrong.

-In Scotland, between 1590 and 1680, it is estimated that 4400 witches were executed.

-The most famous case was the North Berwick witches in 1590-92.

-They were accused of worshipping the Devil in church at night, flying in sieves, raising storms, and attempting to murder King James I by melting a wax image of him in a fire, among other things.

-The king took this very seriously and interrogated them himself.

-One witch, Agnes Simpson, was able to whisper the words he and his wife had spoken to each other on their wedding night, which naturally impressed him.

-They finally confessed and all were executed.

**The Curse of *Macbeth***

-The curse of *Macbeth* is the misfortune that happens during the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the play.

-The theory goes that Shakespeare included actual black magic spells in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the weird sisters.

-Anyone who appears in the play and mentions the name within the confines of the theatre risk having these evils brought down on their heads.

-It is often called “The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Play” or “that play” or “that unmentionable.”

-It is supposed to be bad luck to use any sets, costumes, or props from the production over again.

-This reputation is partly from the weird sisters, and partly because tradition traces a long line of disasters back to its premier on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 7, 1606.

-To break the curse you must step outside, turn around three times, spit, and say the foulest word you can think of, and wait for permission to re-enter the theatre.

-Another method is mumbling the phrase: “Thrice around the circle bound, Evil sink into the ground.”