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# William Shakespeare and His Times

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



## Chapter 1: Shakespeare in Stratford

### Comprehension Questions

1. Which of these sentences is **not** about the life of young Shakespeare?
  - a. He was baptized at a church in the town of Stratford.
  - b. He was married to a woman who was eight years older than he was.
  - c. He and his wife became the parents of twins.
  - d. *He went to college in London.*
  
2. What was grammar school like in Shakespeare's time?
  - a. Students sat at desks and wrote with feather pens.
  - b. School stopped at lunchtime so that some of the children could work in the family business.
  - c. *Grammar school was only for boys. It started very early and it lasted all day, with a short break for lunch.*
  - d. School was held at the church, with boys sitting on one side and girls on the other.
  
3. What was the town of Stratford like when Shakespeare was growing up?
  - a. Stratford was part of London, the biggest city in England.
  - b. *Stratford was a small but busy market town, where people came to buy and sell things.*
  - c. Stratford was so far out in the country that no travelers ever went there.
  - d. Stratford was filthy and crowded and full of disease.

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## Chapter 1: Shakespeare in Stratford

### Vocabulary Questions

1. A person who writes plays is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. *playwright*
  - b. player
  - c. minister
  - d. student
  
2. In many Christian churches, babies were \_\_\_\_\_ a few days after they were born.
  - a. bought
  - b. performed
  - c. married
  - d. *baptized*
  
3. If people can read and write, we say they are \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. baptized
  - b. *literate*
  - c. wealthy
  - d. famous
  
4. In Shakespeare's time, the school for young boys and girls was called the \_\_\_\_\_ school.
  - a. *petty*
  - b. grammar
  - c. church
  - d. home



## Chapter 2: Shakespeare Comes to London

### Comprehension Questions

1. Why was London growing during Shakespeare's time?
  - a. Because many people wanted to protect the city of London from attackers.
  - b. Because the Queen of England had told people to travel to London to buy and sell things.
  - c. *Because many people couldn't make a living as farmers, so they came to London to find work.*
  - d. Because too many people were getting sick out on the farms and they thought the city would be a healthy place to live.
  
2. Why was the River Thames so important to business in London?
  - a. Because the queen only traveled by boat so people had to go to the river if they wanted to see her.
  - b. Because the River Thames was the only place in London where people could find clean water.
  - c. Because the River Thames was the only way to get to the city of London.
  - d. *Because the roads in England were bad, and boats and ships could use the river to move people and goods.*
  
3. Why did England care about other countries in Europe?
  - a. Because the Queen of England did not want to live in London.
  - b. Because Europe had better schools, and England wanted to send children to those schools.
  - c. Because the best playwrights came from Europe, and people in England wanted to see their plays.
  - d. *Because England wanted to buy and sell things in other countries.*

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## Chapter 2: Shakespeare Comes to London

### Vocabulary Questions

1. Boats that carried people across the River Thames were called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. travelers
  - b. water taxis
  - c. tall ships
  - d. ministers
  
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of a place is all the people who live there.
  - a. traffic
  - b. population
  - c. map
  - d. townspeople
  
3. Making things in factories is called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. fortune
  - b. farming
  - c. petty
  - d. industry
  
4. The business of buying and selling products is called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. literacy
  - b. materials
  - c. trade
  - d. transporting



## Chapter 3: Filthy but Fun – Life in Shakespeare’s London

### Comprehension Questions

1. Why did London smell so bad?
  - a. Because the water in the River Thames was full of salt.
  - b. Because there were leaks in sewage pipes under the streets.
  - c. Because the streets were flooded with human waste, animal waste and garbage.
  - d. Because wild animals died and rotted in the fields outside the ancient walls.
  
2. Why did Londoners want to go outside the ancient walls of the city?
  - a. Because people could find clean streets and water outside the walls.
  - b. Because poor people could buy houses outside the ancient walls of the city.
  - c. Because it was easy to find work outside the ancient walls of the city.
  - d. Because people could do things outside the walls that were against the rules inside.
  
3. Chapter Two discusses things that Londoners did for entertainment. Which one of the following things was **not** discussed in the chapter?
  - a. Londoners went to other countries in Europe to buy goods like sugar, spices and wine.
  - b. Londoners watched animal fights.
  - c. Londoners went to see plays.
  - d. Londoners went to taverns to eat and drink.



## Chapter 3: Filthy but Fun – Life in Shakespeare’s London

### Vocabulary Questions

1. Dirty water from sinks and toilets is called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. ancient
  - b. transporting
  - c. sewage
  - d. buried
  
2. A place where animals are butchered is called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. a mastiff mill
  - b. a slaughterhouse
  - c. an animal factory
  - d. a blood building
  
3. A building where prostitutes worked was called a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. brothel
  - b. Bear Garden
  - c. planet
  - d. canal
  
4. In London, the pot that people used as a toilet in their bedrooms was called a \_\_\_\_\_ pot.
  - a. flower
  - b. chamber
  - c. sewage
  - d. filth

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# William Shakespeare and His Times

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## Chapter 4: Pens, Swords, Plays, and Playwrights

### Comprehension Questions

1. What did crowds at the Globe theater like to see on the stage?
  - a. Girls and women.
  - b. Groundlings and stinkards.
  - c. *Blood and guts.*
  - d. Wealthy Londoners.
  
2. Why did some playwrights look down on Shakespeare?
  - a. *Because he had never gone to college or university.*
  - b. Because he had left his family in Stratford.
  - c. Because he was a stinkard.
  - d. Because he would not fight in a duel.
  
3. Why was it dangerous to be an actor or playwright in Shakespeare's time?
  - a. *Because actors and playwrights fought with each other out of jealousy.*
  - b. Because a theater might catch on fire and burn to the ground.
  - c. Because in some plays they used swords and cannons.
  - d. Because there were wild animals and cutpurses everywhere.

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# William Shakespeare and His Times

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## Chapter 4: Pens, Swords, Plays, and Playwrights

### Vocabulary Questions

1. When two people fight using swords or guns, they are having a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. channel
  - b. trade
  - c. duel
  - d. cutpurse
  
2. A person who makes good jokes is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. stinkard
  - b. Falstaff
  - c. groundling
  - d. wit
  
3. Actors may \_\_\_\_\_ a play for weeks or months before they perform it.
  - a. rehearse
  - b. kill
  - c. protect
  - d. display
  
4. The inside part of an animal where urine is collected is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. thatch
  - b. stinkard
  - c. bladder
  - d. brothel





## Chapter 5: "Bring Out Your Dead"

### Comprehension Questions

1. Why was the plague called the bubonic plague?
  - a. Because Doctor Bubo was the man who discovered the plague.
  - b. Because victims got painful swellings called buboes.
  - c. Because the plague started in a village called Bubo, England.
  - d. Because the plague was caused by wild animals called buboes.
2. How did people get the plague?
  - a. By being bitten by fleas that carried plague bacteria.
  - b. By drinking water that carried plague bacteria.
  - c. By touching an amulet or pomander that had been worn by a plague victim.
  - d. By burning the clothing of a plague victim.
3. Why did the plague spread so quickly?
  - a. Because most of the doctors in London had died.
  - b. Because London was so crowded.
  - c. Because no one was ever quarantined.
  - d. Because the queen refused to pay for a sewage system.



## Chapter 5: "Bring Out Your Dead"

### Vocabulary Questions

1. When a disease can pass quickly from person to person, we say it is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. literate
  - b. petty
  - c. realistic
  - d. *contagious*
  
2. Sometimes, sick people are put in \_\_\_\_\_ to keep them separate from other people.
  - a. stinkards
  - b. taverns
  - c. *quarantine*
  - d. brothels
  
3. Invisible germs that can make people sick are called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. *bacteria*
  - b. sewage
  - c. buboes
  - d. tides
  
4. An object that people carry to bring good luck is called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. a bubo
  - b. a cutpurse
  - c. *an amulet*
  - d. a glove



## Chapter 6: Crime and Punishment

### Comprehension Questions

1. Chapter Six discusses punishments that were used on offenders in Shakespeare's time. Which one of the following punishments was not discussed in the chapter?
  - a. Beheading
  - b. *Shooting*
  - c. Maiming
  - d. Hanging
  
2. According to the chapter, what was the punishment for traitors during the Elizabethan Age?
  - a. *Traitors were hanged, drawn and quartered.*
  - b. Traitors were pilloried.
  - c. Traitors were put in the stocks.
  - d. Traitors were forced to work as slaves for the queen.
  
3. Why were the bloody heads of traitors placed on London Bridge?
  - a. To feed the birds near the River Thames.
  - b. To keep contagious diseases like the plague from spreading.
  - c. *To warn people that they should obey the laws of the queen or king.*
  - d. To let people in water taxis know that criminals were being executed that day.



## Chapter 6: Crime and Punishment

### Vocabulary Questions

1. People who commit crimes are called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. *offenders*
  - b. stocks
  - c. germs
  - d. victims
  
2. A crime against a person's own country, king, or queen is called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. pillory
  - b. a duel
  - c. *treason*
  - d. a petty crime
  
3. Someone who commits treason is called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. *a traitor*
  - b. an Elizabethan
  - c. bubonic
  - d. a mastiff
  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ means cutting off or destroying some part of the body.
  - a. Quarantine
  - b. Jeering
  - c. *Maiming*
  - d. Baiting



## Chapter 7: Shakespeare for All Time

### Comprehension Questions

1. Why do some people believe that the Earl of Oxford really wrote Shakespeare's plays?
  - a. Because the Earl of Oxford was a good friend of Shakespeare.
  - b. *Because the Earl of Oxford was rich, had a good education, and traveled a lot.*
  - c. Because the Earl of Oxford's name was on some of the plays.
  - d. Because the Earl of Oxford was one of Shakespeare's students at grammar school.
  
2. Why are Shakespeare's works still so interesting to people all around the world?
  - a. Because Shakespeare wrote his plays in different languages.
  - b. Because Shakespeare and his actors traveled to other countries to perform the plays.
  - c. Because Shakespeare's children continued his work.
  - d. *Because the ideas and feelings in the plays are timeless.*
  
3. How did Shakespeare help to create the English language of today?
  - a. *By putting new words and expressions into his plays.*
  - b. By writing the first dictionary of the English language.
  - c. By becoming a teacher at Oxford University.
  - d. By changing the spelling of hard words to make them easy to remember.

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## Chapter 7: Shakespeare for All Time

### Vocabulary Questions

1. When writers want to keep their real names secret, they sometimes publish their work under \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. playwrights
  - b. cutpurses
  - c. pen names
  - d. amulets
  
2. Experts continue to \_\_\_\_\_ about who really wrote Shakespeare's plays.
  - a. laugh
  - b. cry
  - c. debate
  - d. sing
  
3. Shakespeare got a good education at the local grammar school, and his \_\_\_\_\_ took him the rest of the way.
  - a. anger
  - b. genius
  - c. wealth
  - d. disease
  
4. Lovers understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of Romeo and Juliet.
  - a. comedy
  - b. passion
  - c. treason
  - d. crimes