**William Shakespeare**

William Shakespeare is probably the most famous playwright in history. He was born on 23 April in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon in England. He was one of eight brothers and sisters. His father, John Shakespeare, was a successful businessman. William went to school in Stratford and learned Latin and Greek, but he didn’t go to university. At the age of fifteen he went to work in his father’s business.

When he was eighteen, he met and fell in love with Anne Hathaway. She was eight years older than him. They got married in November 1582, and six months later their daughter Susanna was born. In 1585 they had twins, Hamnet and Judith. Little is known about the next seven years of his life. We only know that he moved to London, leaving Anne and the children in Stradford, and that by 1592 he was writing plays and working as an actor.

His plays were popular and he made a lot of money. In 1597 he bought a big house in Stratford for his family, but he stayed in London for another thirteen years. He continued to write and act and also bought a theatre. In 1611 he finally retired and moved back to Stratford to live in the house he had bought. In total, Shakespeare wrote 37 plays and 154 sonnets. Some of his love poems are addressed to a married woman, and some of them are addressed to a young man. Nobody knows the identity of these two people.

Shakespeare died in Stratford on his birthday, on 23 April 1616, and was buried in the church where he had been christened exactly 52 years later.