

## A Midsummer Night's Dream

Andrew Matthews

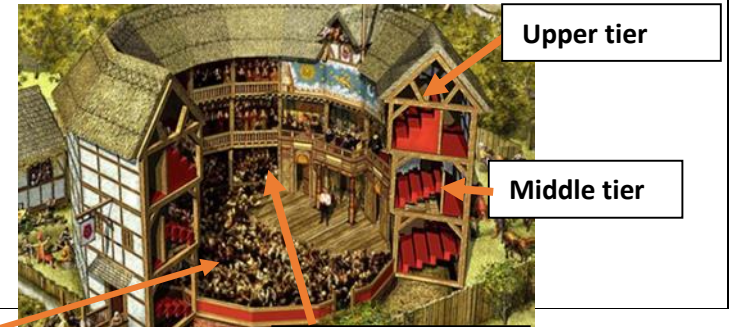
### Life of William Shakespeare



Date of birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Born 26<sup>th</sup> April 1564</li> </ul>
Place of birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stratford-upon-Avon</li> </ul>
Early life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grew up in Stratford-upon-Avon</li> <li>Moved to London when he became a successful writer</li> </ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unlike many children at the time, Shakespeare went to school</li> <li>Learnt Latin and the alphabet</li> </ul>
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Married Anne Hathaway at 18</li> <li>Had 3 children, 2 daughters and 1 son</li> </ul>
Published work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hamlet</li> <li>Macbeth</li> <li>A Midsummer Night's Dream</li> <li>Romeo and Juliet</li> <li>Othello</li> <li>The Taming of the Shrew</li> </ul>

### The Globe Theatre

- Built on the South Bank of the River Thames in 1599
- Building was roughly a circular shape but with flat sides
- Open-air theatre
- Poor people only paid a penny to stand and watch



The pit

Only male actors

- Poor people were called 'groundlings' because they stood on the ground
- Richer people sat in tiered seating under a thatched roof
- No parts were played by women, men played any female parts
- Audience jeered and threw rotten fruit if the play was bad
- Plays were only performed during daylight hours as there was no electricity to light the stage



**Shakespeare's Plays**

- Some of his plays were performed to Queen Elizabeth I
- Themes included religion, love and the monarchy
- Wrote 4 major tragedies – King Lear, Hamlet, Othello and Macbeth
- Wrote 17 comedies, including Midsummer Night's Dream
- Wrote 10 history plays, which were mainly about kings

History of theatre	Language of Shakespeare
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First plays were Greek tragedies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Created over 300 words and phrases</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our theatre comes from Roman plays</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many sayings in English come from Shakespeare</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elizabeth I supported the performing of plays</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Also wrote 154 sonnets (a poem of 14 lines)</li> </ul>