

## 09. William Shakespeare

One of the most famous Britain's writers and important dramatics  
16<sup>th</sup> century in the period of the Renaissance

### Life

Was born on **23<sup>rd</sup> April, 1564** in **Stratford-upon-Avon**

When he was 18 he married **Ann Hathaway** → daughter Susan and the twins, Hamnet and Judith

Died on **23<sup>rd</sup> April, 1616**, after birthday celebration at the age of 52

### Classification of work

During a period of **20** years he wrote **37** plays

They can be divided into: tragedies, comedies, historical plays and poetry

### Poetry

In 1593 and 1594, when the theatres were closed because of plague, Shakespeare published two narrative poems on erotic themes, "Venus and Adonis" and "The Rape of Lucrece".

### Elizabethan drama

English Renaissance theatre, also known as early modern English theatre, or as Elizabethan theatre, refers to the theatre of England between 1562 and 1642. It is the style of the plays of William Shakespeare. Characteristic is the pursuit of the most accurate interpretation of the text of plays.

### Shakespeare's plays

#### Romeo and Juliet

This play is about the unhappy love and death of Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet. They got married in secret because their families were fighting. Few days after wedding, Romeo unfortunately killed one of Juliet's cousins. Romeo was sent to exile. Juliet took a drug which made her fallen into such a deep sleep that people thought, that she was dead. Romeo found her body a thought that she is dead and poisoned himself.

#### Hamlet

Is based on the Danish legend. Hamlet's uncle called Claudius murdered Hamlet's father, the king of Denmark. Claudius married Hamlet's mother, Queen Gertrude, and then he appropriates the throne. The ghost of death king asks Hamlet for revenge. Hamlet pretends madness to find some proof of Claudius' guilt. Hamlet finds the truth about Claudius but Hamlet accidentally kills Polonius, Ophelia's father. Ophelia was in love with Hamlet. Ophelia's brother Laertes wants revenge for murder of his father. Claudius and Laertes become allies. After final fight everybody die.