Of course, I'd be happy to help! William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was an English playwright and poet who is widely regarded as one of the greatest writers in the English language. Here's a brief summary of his life and works:  
  
Early Life:  
Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, England, to John and Mary Shakespeare. His father was a glove maker and ale brewer, and Shakespeare had several siblings. He likely attended the local grammar school in Stratford, where he would have studied Latin and classical literature.  
  
Career:  
Shakespeare began his career as an actor and playwright in London during the late 1590s. He was part of a company called Lord Chamberlain's Men, which later became known as the King's Men. He wrote at least 38 plays and 154 sonnets, and is estimated to have written around 200 plays throughout his lifetime. Some of his most famous works include "Romeo and Juliet," "Hamlet," "Othello," "King Lear," and "Macbeth."  
  
Style and Themes:  
Shakespeare's plays are known for their complex characters, poetic language, and exploration of themes such as love, power, mortality, and the human condition. He often used metaphor, imagery, and symbolism to convey deeper meanings and emotions. His plays were also characterized by their use of blank verse (unrhymed iambic pentameter), which gave them a distinctive sound and rhythm.  
  
Impact and Legacy:  
Shakespeare's plays have had a profound impact on Western literature and culture. His works have been translated into numerous languages and continue to be performed and adapted around the world. Many of his phrases and expressions have become part of everyday language, and his influence can be seen in various art forms, including film, music, and dance. He is considered one of the greatest writers in history, and his legacy continues to inspire and influence artists and scholars today.  
  
I hope that helps give you a sense of the history of Shakespeare and his works! Let me know if you have any other questions.