Of course, I'd be happy to help! William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was a renowned 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. He received little formal education but showed an early interest in writing and acting.  
  
Career:  
Shakespeare began his career in London as an actor and playwright in the late 1580s. His earliest plays, such as "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" and "The Taming of the Shrew," were comedies with romantic plots and witty dialogue. In the mid-1590s, he wrote several tragedies, including "Romeo and Juliet" and "Hamlet," which are considered some of his most famous works. These plays explored themes of love, death, and the human condition, and were characterized by their complex characters, poetic language, and dramatic plot twists.  
  
Shakespeare also wrote several histories, such as "Henry V" and "Richard III," which dealt with the political and social issues of his time. Additionally, he penned several problem plays, like "Measure for Measure" and "All's Well That Ends Well," which tackled moral and ethical questions.  
  
Collaborations and Patronage:  
While Shakespeare's name appears on many of his plays, there is evidence to suggest that he may have collaborated with other writers or even ghostwriters at times. For example, some scholars believe that he worked with a man named Edward de Vere on the play "Snow in August." Shakespeare's patron was Queen Elizabeth I, who supported him financially and provided him with access to the royal court. This allowed him to write for the Lord Chamberlain's Men, a prestigious theater company that later became known as the King's Men.  
  
Personal Life:  
Little is known about Shakespeare's personal life outside of his writing. However, it is believed that he married Anne Hathaway when he was around 18 years old, and they had three children together. There is also evidence to suggest that he owned property in Stratford-upon-Avon and invested in real estate.  
  
Legacy:  
Shakespeare's legacy extends far beyond his own lifetime. His plays have been performed and studied for centuries, and continue to be adapted into various forms of media, such as films, television shows, and stage productions. Many of his lines and phrases have become ingrained in popular culture, and his influence can be seen in countless artistic works across different genres. Today, he remains one of the most celebrated and revered figures in literature history.