Of course, I'd be happy to help! William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, England in 1564 and died in 1616. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest playwrights in history, and his works are still performed and studied today.  
  
Shakespeare began his career as an actor and playwright in London during the late Elizabethan period. His early plays were written for the Lord Chamberlain's Men, a theater company that later became known as the King's Men. Some of his earliest surviving plays include "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" (1590s) and "The Taming of the Shrew" (1590s).  
  
In the late 1590s, Shakespeare wrote some of his most famous plays, including "Romeo and Juliet" (1595), "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (1595), and "Richard III" (1597). These plays showcased his mastery of language, character development, and storytelling, and they established him as a leading figure in the English literary scene.  
  
During the early 1600s, Shakespeare wrote several more plays, including "Hamlet" (1600), "Othello" (1603), and "King Lear" (1606). These plays explored themes of love, betrayal, ambition, and mortality, and they cemented Shakespeare's reputation as a genius of the stage.  
  
Shakespeare retired from the stage in the late 1600s and returned to Stratford-upon-Avon, where he lived out the rest of his life. He died in 1616 at the age of 52, leaving behind a legacy of over 30 plays and numerous poems and sonnets.  
  
Throughout his life and career, Shakespeare was influenced by the political, social, and cultural developments of his time. He wrote many of his plays during a period of great change and upheaval in England, including the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and the early years of King James I. His works often reflected these larger historical trends, while also offering timeless insights into the human condition.  
  
Overall, Shakespeare's impact on literature and theater has been immense, and his works continue to inspire new generations of artists, writers, and audiences around the world.