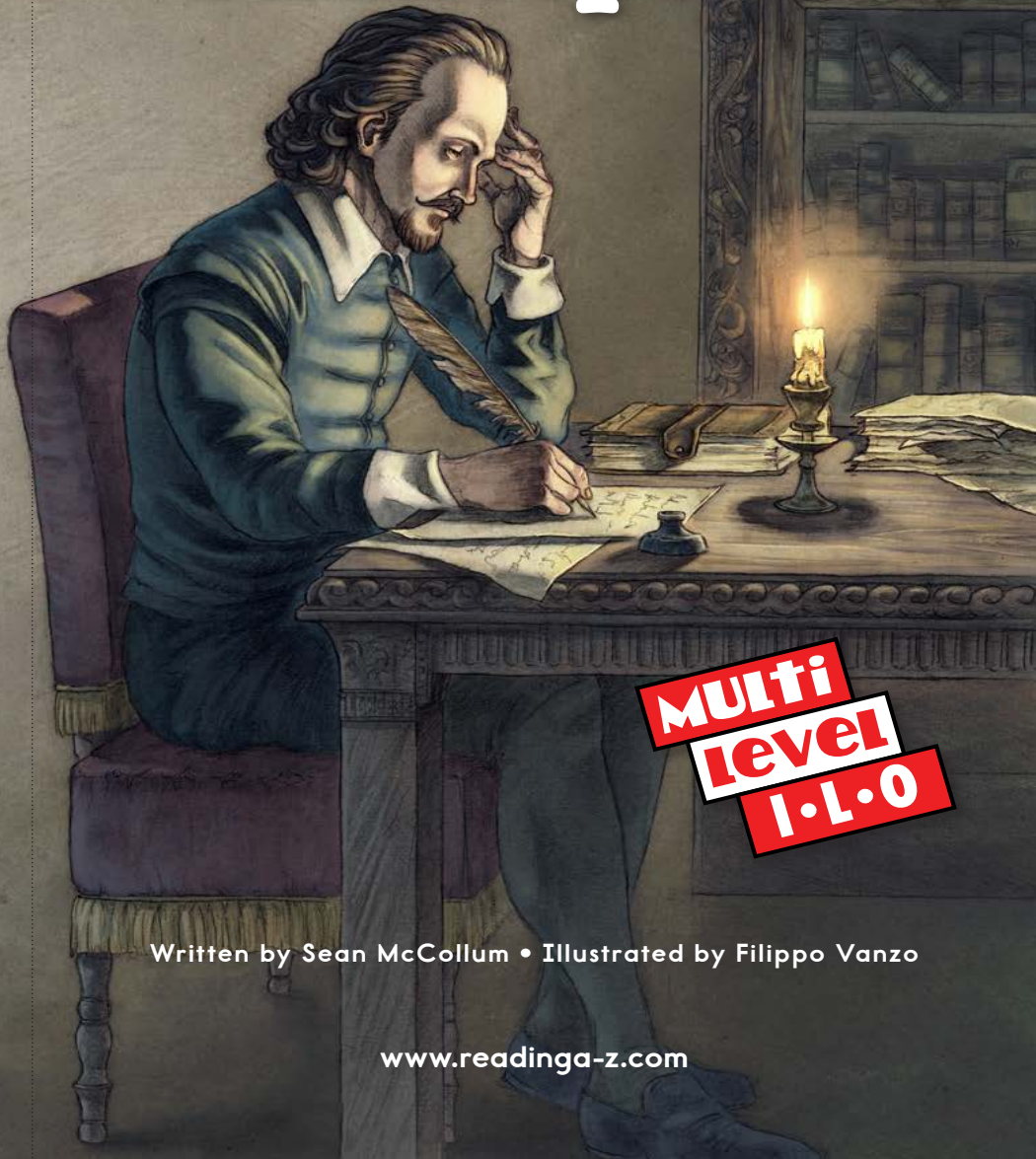


LEVELED BOOK • I

William Shakespeare



**Multi
level
1.L.0**

Written by Sean McCollum • Illustrated by Filippo Vanzo

www.readinga-z.com

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Focus Question

Who was William Shakespeare, and why do people remember him?



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This may be a painting of Shakespeare, but experts are not sure.

Introduction

William Shakespeare wrote many **plays**.

He died a long time ago, but his work is still **popular**.



Shakespeare's Early Life

Shakespeare was born in London, England, in 1564.

Many people at that time could not read or write, but Shakespeare could!



Shakespeare in London

Shakespeare was an **actor**.

He also wrote many kinds of plays.



London Theater

In Shakespeare's time, people loved to see plays. They were exciting, with sword fights and fancy costumes. Only men could act. Women weren't allowed to act.



Shakespeare's Plays

Some of Shakespeare's plays
are funny.

Some of his plays are sad.



Children (top) and actors (bottom) act in Shakespeare's play *Henry V*, about one of England's kings.

Some of his plays are about **history**.

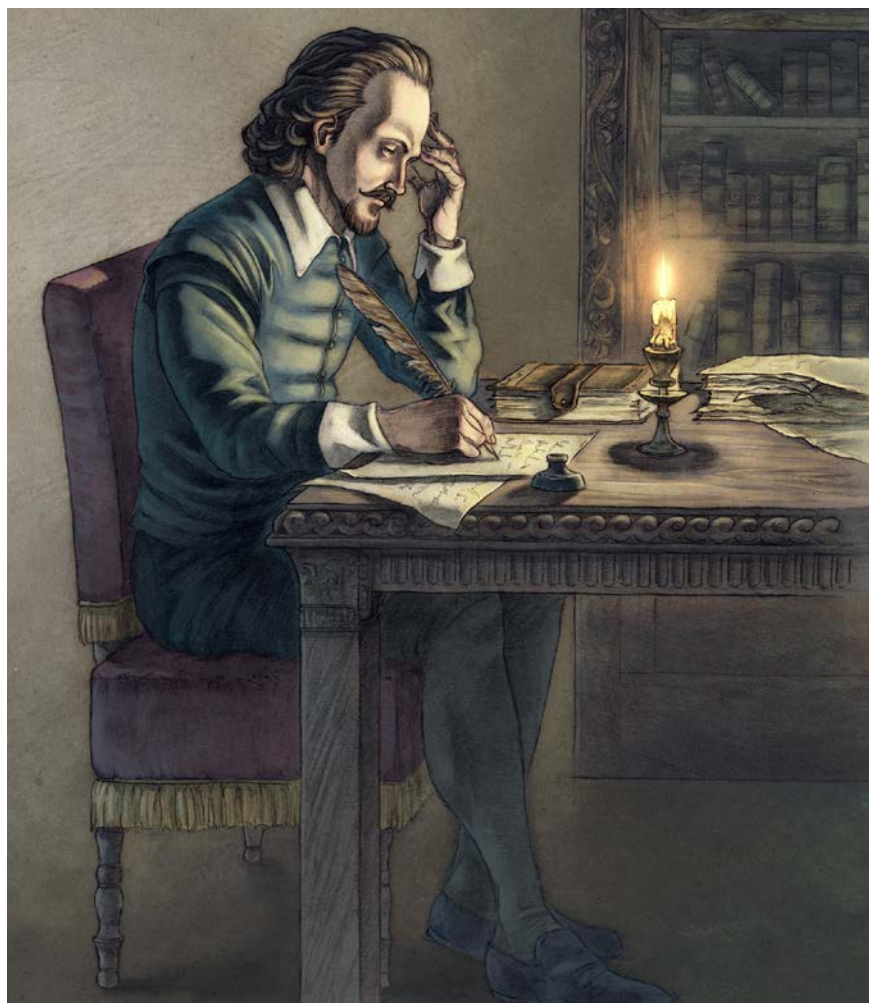


Students in Denver, Colorado, act in Shakespeare's plays.

Shakespeare's Importance

For hundreds of years, people around the world have enjoyed Shakespeare's plays.

They've laughed and cried along with his characters.



It doesn't matter if Shakespeare's stories take place today or long ago. People feel connected to his stories about love, hate, bravery, and power.



People sit on a lawn and watch one of Shakespeare's plays in England.

People around the world can read Shakespeare's plays.

His plays are put on around the world by actors and children.

Many of Shakespeare's plays have been made into **films**.



This picture was made two hundred years after Shakespeare died.

Shakespeare's Poems

Shakespeare also wrote many poems.

They are mostly about love.

Shakespeare's Life: Important Dates



- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1564 | William Shakespeare is born in Stratford, England. |
| 1582 | Shakespeare marries Anne Hathaway. |
| 1583 | Anne gives birth to their first child, Susanna. |
| 1585 | The couple's twins, Hamnet and Judith, are born. |
| 1585–1592 | At some point during these years, Shakespeare moves to London. |
| 1594 | Shakespeare is part owner of a theater group. |
| 1599 | Shakespeare and others open the Globe Theatre. |
| 1616 | Shakespeare dies. |
| 1623 | A book of Shakespeare's plays is published. |

Shakespeare's Death

Shakespeare died in 1616.

His friends made a book of Shakespeare's plays.

They made sure people read and saw his plays.

Conclusion

Today, William Shakespeare is thought to be one of the greatest writers of all time.

His plays show how **difficult**—and how beautiful—life can be.

People around the world have enjoyed Shakespeare's works for hundreds of years.

They will enjoy them for many more years.



Many people visit Shakespeare's grave in a church in England.

Glossary

- actor** (*n.*) a person who acts out parts on stage, on television, or in movies (p. 6)
- difficult** (*adj.*) requiring much effort to do, understand, or handle; not easy (p. 15)
- films** (*n.*) movies (p. 12)
- history** (*n.*) past events (p. 9)
- plays** (*n.*) stories that are acted out (p. 4)
- popular** (*adj.*) liked or enjoyed by many people (p. 4)

Words to Know

actor

difficult

films

history

plays

popular

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Correlation

LEVEL I	
Fountas & Pinnell	I
Reading Recovery	15–16
DRA	16

William Shakespeare

A Reading A-Z Level I Leveled Book
Word Count: 218

Connections

Writing and Art

Write an acrostic poem about Shakespeare. Use the name Shakespeare as the acrostic. Each letter in his name begins a line of your poem.

The Arts

Create a topic web about Shakespeare's plays. Complete the web with details from the book. Discuss what you learned with a partner.



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