William Shakespeare

Background Information

1. Why don’t we know much about William Shakespeare? Where does the little we know come from?

2. When and where was Shakespeare born?

3. Describe his family. (Siblings? Father?)

4. What kind of education does Shakespeare have?

5. Describe his marriage. (To whom? Kids? Etc.)

6. What job did Shakespeare have in 1592?

7. Two years later he was a member of what? What did this mean?

8. How popular are Shakespeare’s plays?

9. How old was he when he died? What is ironic about the date of his death?

10. Where is William Shakespeare buried?

Shakespeare and His Theater

Background Information

1. Why is it important to understand Shakespeare’s theater?

**The Wooden O**

2. Who built the first permanent theater in England? What was it called?

3. What did actors do before this permanent stage was built?

4. What happened to Burbage’s theater in 1599? What replaced it?

5. Describe Shakespeare’s “Wooden O” or Globe Theatre.

6. What time of day were plays typically performed? What didn’t they need?

7. Since there were few opportunities for sets, what did they say “set” the scene?

8. What was the most elaborate part of the play?

9. What is one major difference between Shakespeare’s plays and modern ones?

**The Modern Stage**

10. It has been said that you only need what for a theater? What does this mean?

11. Describe the changes of Shakespeare’s theater versus modern theaters?

12. What are the two stages we generally see today?

**The Movies and the Theater**

13. What does the “thrust” stage allow playwrights to do with their plays?

14. Describe the differences between a movie and a play.