

William Shakespeare



aka Big Willy

Shakespeare's Family

- **Born 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon**
- **Baptized April 26th; actual birth date unknown**
- **Son of John and Mary (Arden) Shakespeare**
- **He had 7 siblings, only 5 of whom reached adulthood**

Will's house

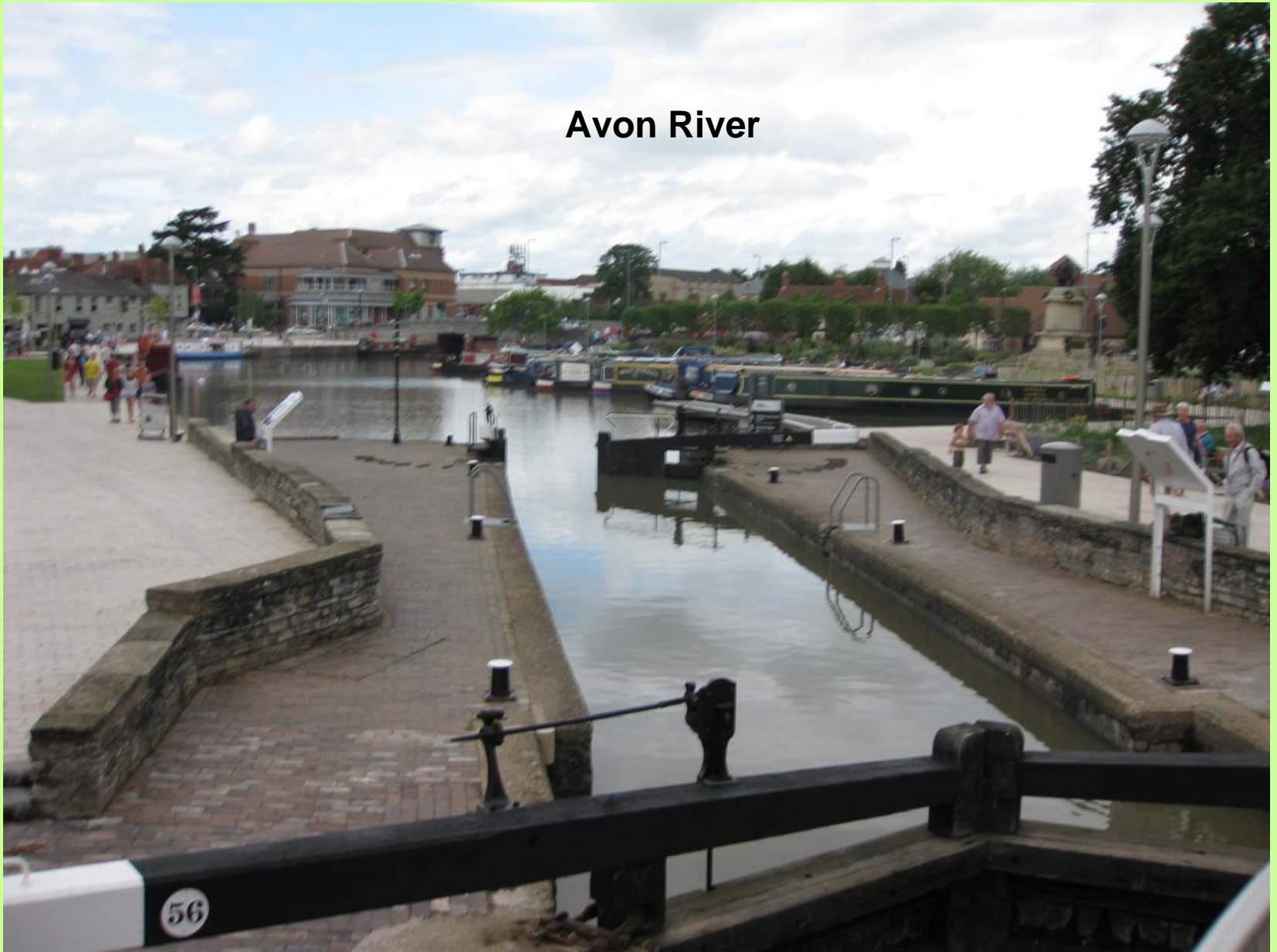


Stratford-upon-Avon Today

Henley Street



Avon River





The Shakespeare Centre

& Shakespeare's Birthplace Entrance

Groups

Reception
& Enquiries





THE
BIRTHPLACE
OF
WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE
(1564-1616)

Entrance via
The Visitors' Centre
40 metres



**A statue of a
jester in
Stratford-
upon-Avon
near Will's
house**



Shakespeare's Accomplishment

- **37 plays and 154 sonnets**

Did he write them all?

- The proof most often cited that Shakespeare authored his plays however, was the **First Folio** (1623) where Henry Condell and John Hemminges who were actors in the Bard's theatre company, claim in a dedicatory verse within the Folio that they recorded and collected his plays as a memorial to the late actor and playwright.
- In terms of value, the First Folio originally was sold for just 1 Pound in 1623. Today as one of just 250 still in existence, it would fetch nearly 3 million dollars (US).

William's Own Family

- Will married Anne Hathaway on November 28th, 1582
- Anne was already pregnant with their first child at the time of marriage
- Will and Anne had three children: Susanna (1583) and twins Hamnet and Judith (1585)
- Hamnet died at age 11

Anne Hathaway's House





Mr. Ford



Shakespeare's Death

- Shakespeare died on **23 April 1616** and was survived by his wife and two daughters
- Shakespeare was buried in the chancel of the **Holy Trinity Church**

Holy Trinity Church



Monument
to Will



The Chancel inside Holy Trinity Church



**Will's monument on
the wall inside the
church, just above
his grave**



Will's grave. The headstone is a curse against stealing the bones.



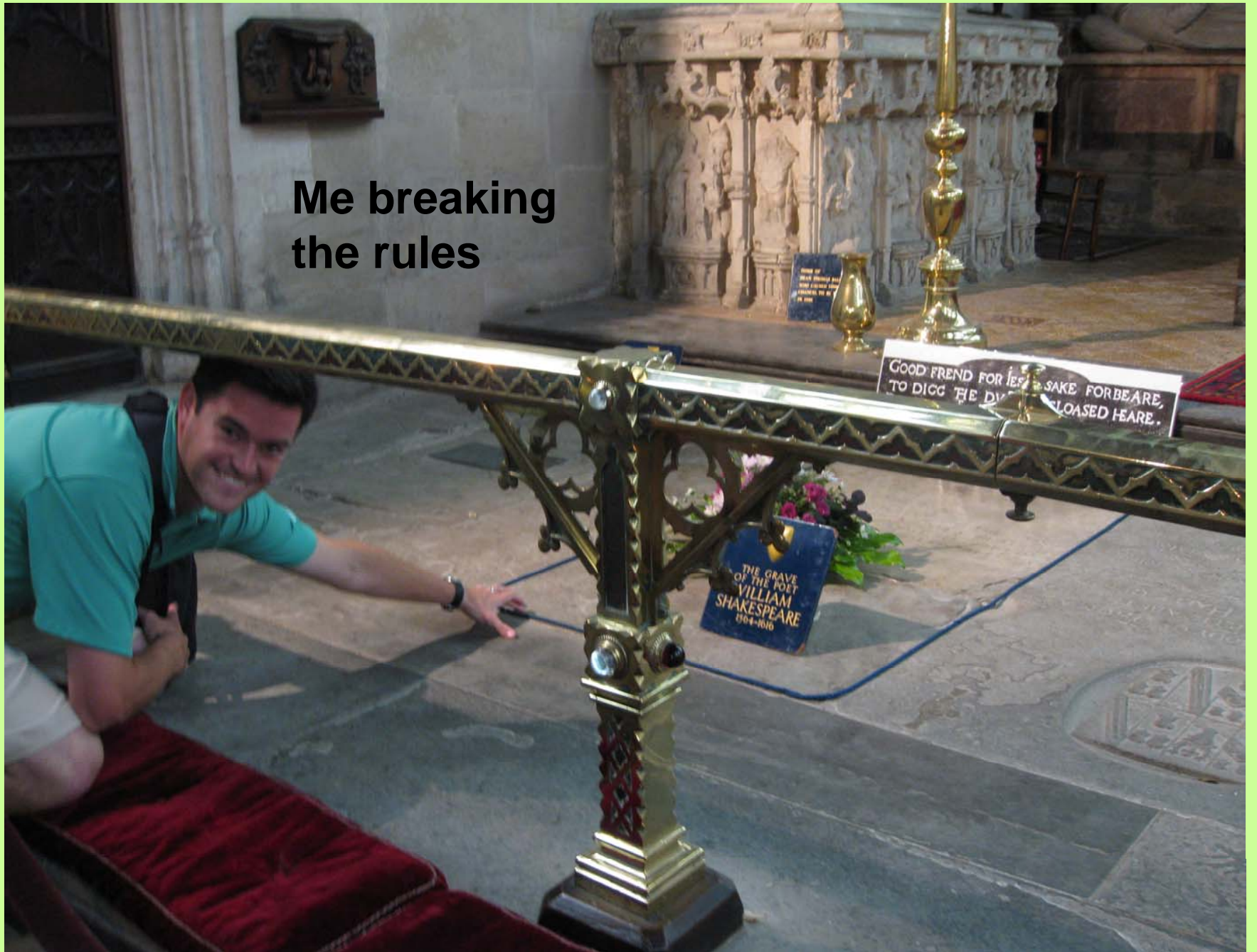
Will's monument

Me

Will's Grave

Protective rope and railing

Me breaking
the rules



GOOD FRENDE FOR IESUS SAKE FORBEARE,
TO DIGG THE DIRT OF THIS BLOODED HEARE.

THE GRAVE
OF THE POET
WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE
1564-1616

Shakespeare's England



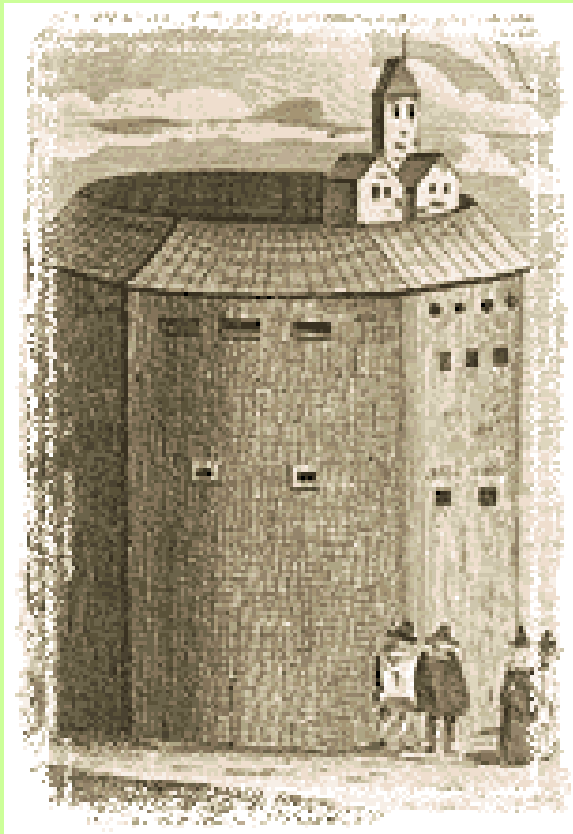
*An Introduction to the Theater
in Elizabethan England*

Elizabethan Theaters

- Before permanent theaters were built, most theater companies performed on wooden platforms set up in the courtyards of inns.
- The physical arrangement of inn theaters influenced the design of permanent theaters.



Shakespeare's Theater



- The Globe Theater, where most of Shakespeare's plays were performed, was an eight-sided structure with a large open area in the middle.

Shakespeare's Theater

- Because the stage was thrust into the courtyard, the audience surrounded the actors on three sides.
- Most of the audience paid a penny for admission and stood on the ground during the performance.




Shakespeare's Theater

- These audience members were called the *groundlings*.
- Wealthier patrons paid an extra penny to sit in the galleries that surrounded the courtyard.
- <http://shakespeare.eb.com> offers an animated tour of The Globe Theater.



Shakespeare's Theater

- The audience often knew the plot of the play in advance.
- They wanted entertainment that contained poetic language, action, word play, dancing, sword fighting.
- They were interested in the *style* of the presentation. 

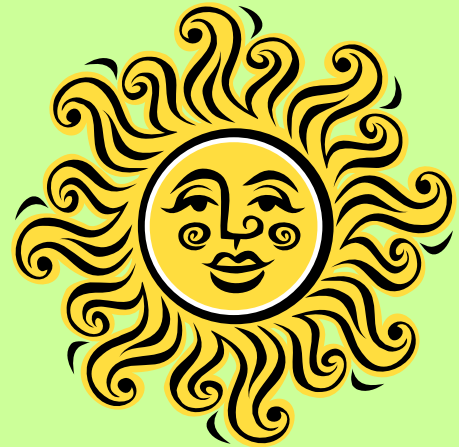
Shakespeare's Theater

- The pace of the performance was rapid — usually two hours for one of Shakespeare's plays.



Shakespeare's Theater

- There was no scenery, no artificial lighting, few props, and no curtain on the main stage.



So what did they do to make their performances interesting?

Shakespeare's Theater

- The dialogue inspired the audience to imagine the setting and mood.



- Shakespeare's rich language and skillfully constructed verse also created vivid characters, exciting plots, and strong messages.

The Globe Theater Today



The Globe Theater

The
Thames
River

Different Angles





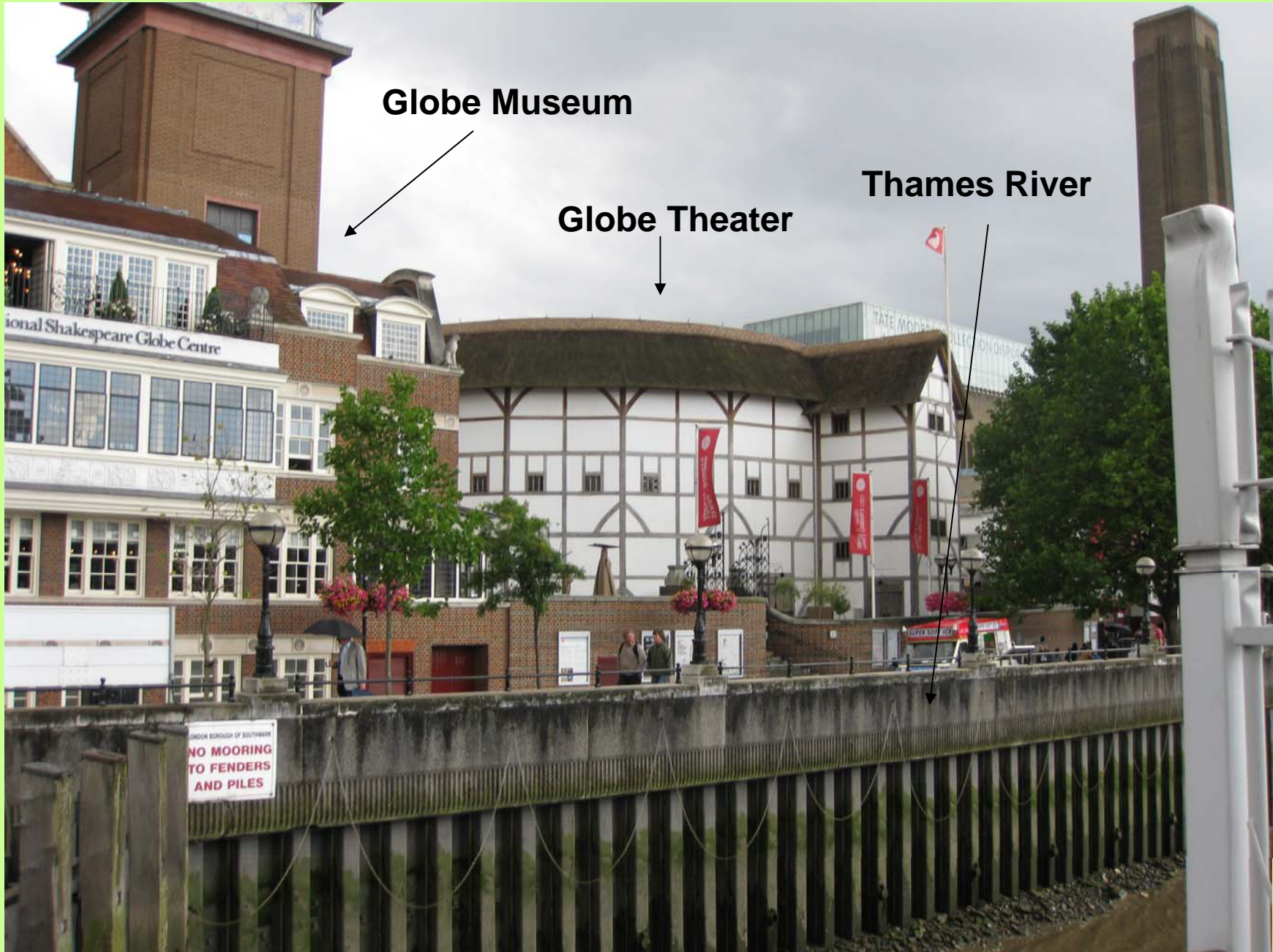
THE FRONTLINE
IN THE HEAVENS

YOUNG HENGST

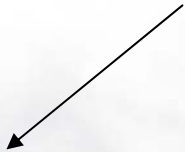
FAIR EAST

Welcome to Malpas's Old

Education and Youth Open Day



Globe Museum



Globe Theater



Thames River



LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK
**NO MOORING
TO FENDERS
AND PILES**

Shakespeare's Theater

He did ALL THAT with words?

- Yes! And *Romeo and Juliet* is a perfect example.

(And you have to remember, they didn't have television, movies, or videogames back then!)

Romeo & Juliet

- Romeo and Juliet is a *tragedy*.
- A *tragedy* is a play in which the main character suffers a major downfall.
- Shakespeare wrote the play early in his career, probably between 1594 and 1596.



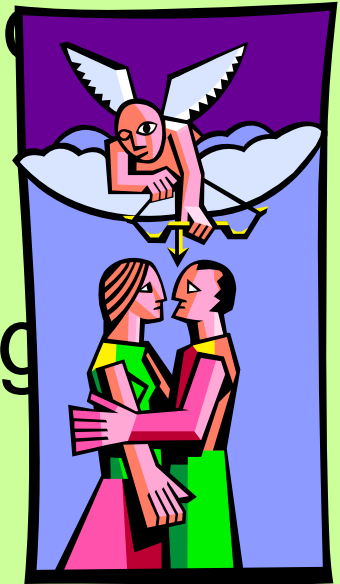
Romeo & Juliet

- The play was based on a story that was well known to Elizabethans.
- The story is borrowed from the plot of a poem or an Italian short novel.

Why does Shakespeare get all the credit?

Romeo & Juliet

- He turned stiff characters into realistic people.
- He told the story in a language that is uniquely his own and beautifully poetic.



How did people like it?

Romeo & Juliet

- The play was immediately popular, and its popularity has grown for nearly 400 years.
- It is performed in many languages, countries, on television, and in film.

So, what's it about?

Romeo & Juliet

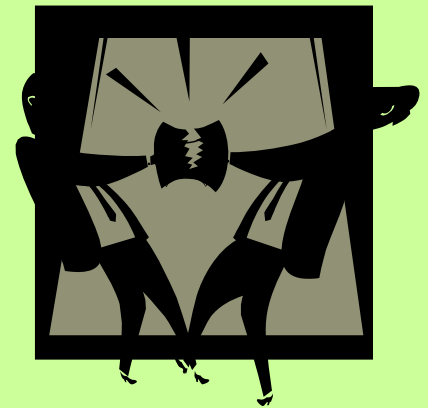
- The play takes place in Italy in the 1300s.
- It is set in the northern city of Verona.



Romeo & Juliet

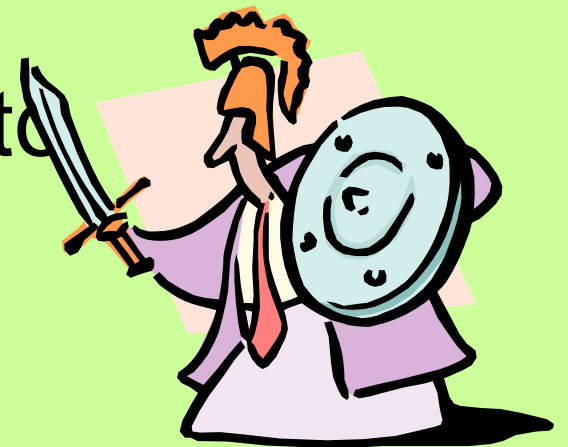
- A feud between two wealthy, powerful families has raged for many years.

What's so interesting about that? I fight with my family all the time.



Romeo & Juliet

- This feud is not quite the same. At this time in history, battles such as these were often life and death matters.
- This feud provides a background and contrast to the tragic love of Romeo and Juliet.



Conclusion

- Now we know a little bit more about Shakespeare and his life and times



- We know the time and place in which he lived as

Conclusion

- Now we know a lot more about the theater in Elizabethan times. **What are a few of the things we learned about the theater?**
- We learned what people were looking for when they went to the theater. **What did they want to experience?**

Conclusion

- We even learned a little bit about *Romeo and Juliet*, which is good, since we'll be reading it soon.
- It was written between _____ and _____, which was early in Shakespeare's career.

Conclusion

- The story takes place in _____,
a city in northern _____.
- The time in which it's set is _____.
- The story begins with a _____
between two _____.