



## William Shakespeare

1564-1616

William Shakespeare was a poet and playwright who lived in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. He is famous for writing plays such as *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and many others. Shakespeare's plays were often about love, politics, or both. His plays are so honest about life that even now, 400 years later, his plays are still performed, celebrated, and made into film. His story lines are copied and modernized to tell old stories in a new way. His language has become so much a part of English that we use phrases today that he originated and we often don't even realize we are quoting him. Shakespeare is known throughout the world as 'The Bard,' a nickname that names him the most famous poet in the history of poets.

Following are several quotes from William Shakespeare's plays. In the space provided, write your own interpretation of the words. If you see a word you don't know in a quote, get out your dictionary and look it up.

1. This above all: to thine own self be true. (from *Hamlet*)

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2. What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet. (from *Romeo and Juliet*)

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3. There's daggers in men's smiles. (from *Macbeth*)

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4. How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless  
child. (from King Lear)

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5. The robbed that smiles steals something from the thief. (from  
Othello)

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6. The course of true love never did run smooth. (from A Midsummer  
Night's Dream)

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7. Brevity is the soul of wit. (from Hamlet)

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8. All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely  
players... (from As You Like It)

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9. There is no darkness but ignorance. (from Twelfth Night)

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10. Better three hours too soon than a minute too late. (from The  
Merry Wives of Windsor)