

Things You Should Know

Dates

- You are not responsible for memorizing the exact date.
- approximately when Shakespeare lived (birth to death dates)
- approximately when Shakespeare worked (i.e., wrote his plays)
- approximately when Elizabeth I died and James I ascended to the throne
- approximately when the First Folio was published

People, Places, and Concepts

- Elizabeth I
- the First Folio
- the Globe Theatre
- James I
- the Lord Chamberlain's Men
- the King's Men
- Anne (Hathaway) Shakespeare
- Stratford-upon-Avon

Social Contexts of Shakespeare's Life

- What was his education like and why it wasn't more extensive?
- What were Shakespeare's finances like?
- How famous was Shakespeare during his lifetime, and how did that fame grow over time?
- How were theater and playwrights perceived by the culture of the time?

Things to Understand

- Some of the evidence that Shakespeare wrote the plays and poems attributed to him.
- This does not have to be an exhaustive list, but you should be able to recognize the arguments and evidence that I discussed in class and be able to reproduce one or two good reasons for why we know Shakespeare wrote his own plays.