

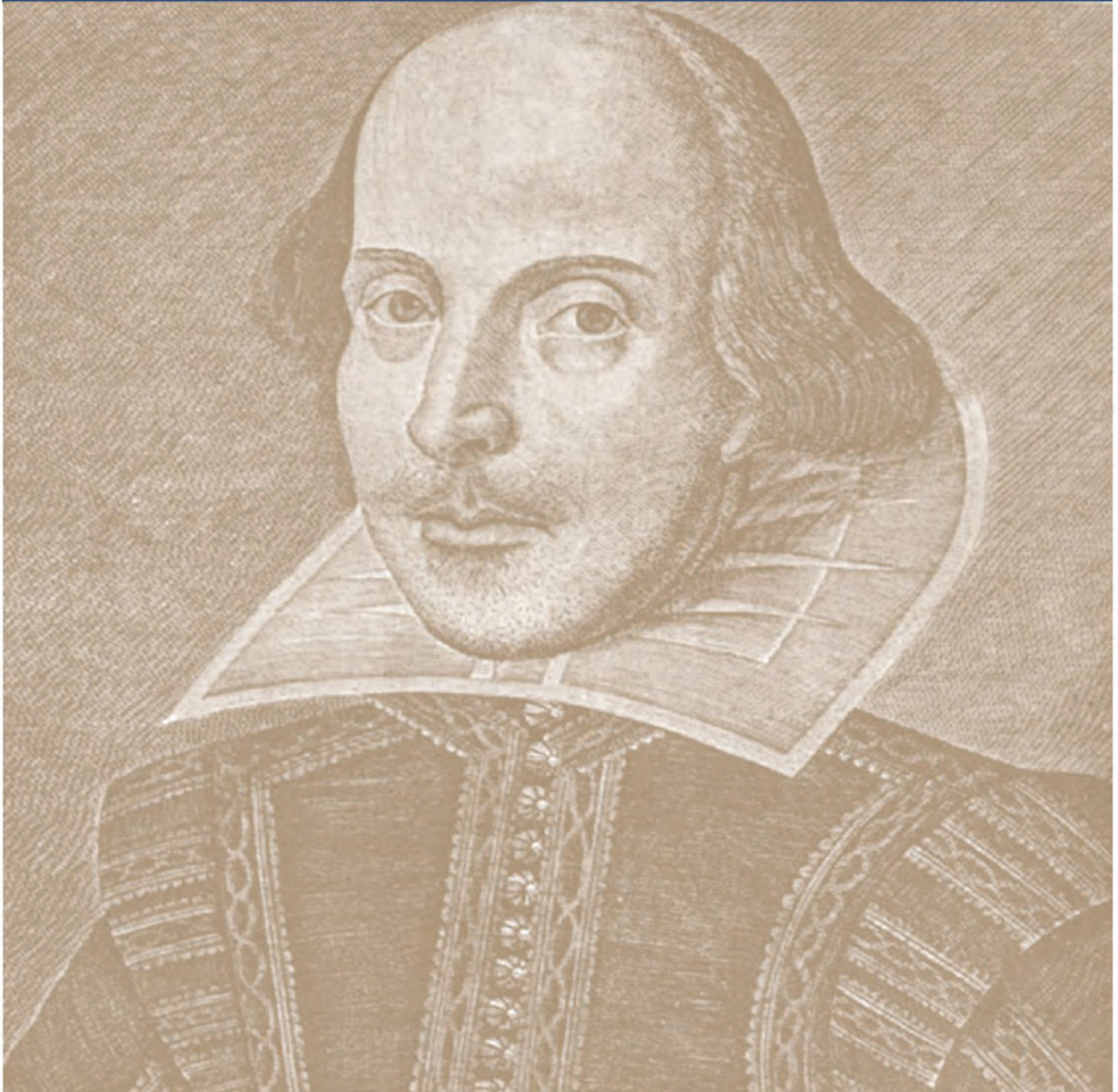
LITERATURE LESSONS

from Teacher's Pet Publications

Who Was William Shakespeare?

By Celeste Davidson Mannis

A Student Workbook To Go With The Text



This Workbook Belongs To _____

LITERATURE LESSONS

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Based On The Book

Who Was William Shakespeare?

By Celeste Davidson Mannis

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Literature Lessons: Who Was William Shakespeare?

Introduction

This workbook is intended to be a study guide for the non-fiction book *Who Was William Shakespeare?* by Celeste Davidson Mannis.

This workbook is recommended for use in grades 6-12, though advanced students in lower grades may be able to handle the assignments.

The reading assignments are broken down into roughly two-chapter segments. Each segment has vocabulary work, fill in the blanks, multiple choice, critical thinking, writing skills, and a review puzzle.

The goals of this workbook are: to help students understand what they read, think about what they read, and remember the important facts about the life of William Shakespeare and his works.

This book and workbook can be used as a stand-alone biographical study of Shakespeare, especially in the lower grades.

In the upper grades, this book and workbook would be an excellent extra project to assign students who are reading a play by Shakespeare. The reading level of the text is about on a 4th-5th grade level, so older students should be able to easily read the text. The point in doing this book in the upper grades would be to give students a concise non-fiction account of Shakespeare's life and his works, as background knowledge.

The **Vocabulary** section is intended to familiarize students with words from the text that they may not know.

The **Fill in the Blanks** section is intended to encourage close reading and reinforce important facts.

The **Multiple Choice** section is intended as a self-quiz, so students can see what they have retained from their reading, as well as another review of important ideas.

The **Critical Thinking** section is intended to make students think about what they have read and to encourage higher level thinking skills.

The **Writing Skills** section is also intended to make students think more about what they have read as well as to practice important writing skills.

The **Crossword Review** puzzle for each section is, again, meant to reinforce important names or ideas from the text.

At the end of the reading of the book, there are some **Whole Book Review** materials to help students remember important people, places, events, and ideas about William Shakespeare and his works.

Literature Lessons: Who Was William Shakespeare?

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Who Was William Shakespeare? — Little Will

Vocabulary

You may be familiar with some of these words or phrases, but some may be new to you. Review this list prior to reading, so you will be familiar with these words when you come upon them in the book.

The page numbers on which the words appear are in () after the sentences from the text.

Word/Phrase	Definition	Sentence From The Text
playwright	person who writes plays	Many people think Shakespeare is the greatest <i>playwright</i> who ever lived. (1)
translated	changed words from one language to another	Everything Shakespeare wrote has been <i>translated</i> into dozens of languages... (2)
coined	created a new word or phrase	Hundreds of words and phrases " <i>coined</i> " by William Shakespeare are still used today. (4)
bubonic plague	disease carried by rats	It was called the black death, or <i>bubonic plague</i> . (7)
nobility	members of the highest class of society	They weren't rich, nor were they part of the <i>nobility</i> . (8)
astronomer	person who studies stars, planets and outer space	In 1514, Nicolaus Copernicus, a Polish <i>astronomer</i> , first wrote the sun was the center of the universe. (9)
bolts	large rolls of cloth	Will watched them build stages in the town square and hang thick <i>bolts</i> of fabric for backdrops. (14)
spellbound	looking on in awe, unable to look away	Young Will must have been <i>spellbound</i> . (14)
debates	formal discussions arguing two sides of a point or an issue	Will also performed in plays and had <i>debates</i> with the other boys. (21)
apprentice	person who learns by working with an expert	Will may have been an <i>apprentice</i> in his father's leather business. (25)

After you have read this section of the book, come back and write a paragraph below, using 7 of your 10 vocabulary words.

Who Was William Shakespeare? — Little Will

Fill In The Blanks

After you read this section of the book, fill in the blanks below.

1. He lived _____ years ago, wrote at least _____ plays, and more than _____ poems.
2. We know Shakespeare began his life as the son of a glove-maker in the small town of _____.
3. “Neither a borrower, nor a _____ be”
4. Baby Will was _____ in Stratford’s Holy Trinity Church.
5. The _____, invented in the 1400’s, made more books available.
6. As a young boy, Will learned a great deal from _____, poetry, and folktales.
7. Queen _____’s peaceful rule set the stage for an era of exploration and scientific discovery, as well as the blossoming of literature, drama, and the fine arts.
8. By the time Will finished grammar school, he had studied many subjects taught in college today, such as philosophy, history, and great _____.
9. What made Shakespeare’s plays so great were the _____ he created and the beautiful language he used.
10. The _____ trade was England’s largest industry and when it suffered, everyone suffered.

WORD BANK

35

150

450

baptized

characters

Elizabeth I

lender

literature

plays

printing press

Stratford upon Avon

wool

Who Was William Shakespeare? — Little Will

Multiple Choice Questions

- ___ 1. Why do we not know a lot about William Shakespeare?
- Shakespeare's plays and poems have been enjoyed ever since he wrote them, but for some years no one cared about Shakespeare himself.
 - Shakespeare wrote about others, but not about himself.
 - Back in the 1500's not many records were kept for the average person.
 - Anything that might tell us about Shakespeare as a man and father, such as letters to or from family and friends were probably destroyed when his house burned down.
- ___ 2. Where was Shakespeare born?
- Shakespeare was born in Stratford, Massachusetts.
 - Shakespeare was born in London, England.
 - Shakespeare was born in Coventry, England.
 - Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, England.
- ___ 3. What did Will's father do for a living?
- Will's father made leather goods.
 - Will's father was a blacksmith.
 - Will's father was a farmer.
 - Will's father was a pharmacist.
- ___ 4. Describe the Shakespeare family.
- The Shakespeares were from a noble family. They were not rich but lived well.
 - The Shakespeares were middle class. They were not rich but they lived well with food on the table and a roof over their heads.
 - The Shakespeares were so poor, they didn't know where their next meal was coming from.
 - The Shakespeares were the richest family in Stratford.
- ___ 5. Before 1514, what did people believe about astronomy?
- People believed the sun was the center of the universe and that the earth circled around it.
 - People believed the earth was the center of the universe with the sun and other planets circling around it.
 - People believed the moon was made of green cheese.
 - People believed the earth circled the moon.

- ___ 6. What was the town of Coventry famous for in Shakespeare's day?
- Coventry was famous for mystery plays performed on stages set on wagons.
 - Coventry was famous for its cathedral.
 - Coventry was famous because Lady Godiva rode through the streets.
 - Coventry was famous because it was Shakespeare's home.
- ___ 7. What influenced Shakespeare to become a playwright?
- Will's father liked actors and probably took him to see plays at a nearby castle. Will watched performances on the streets of Stratford by ordinary people and professionals.
 - Will's mother was an actress so, of course, he liked going to see the plays she performed in.
 - In school, Will's teachers encouraged him to be a writer.
 - It's unknown what influenced him. He was born with the talent.
- ___ 8. Where and when did Shakespeare go to school?
- He went to Oxford University five days a week from September to June.
 - Shakespeare went to school in the summer six days a week. In the winter he worked with his father.
 - He went to school at the Queen's Academy all year round, six days a week.
 - He went to school at King's New School from six or seven in the morning until six at night, six days a week all year round, beginning when he was five years old.
- ___ 9. Why was it important for Will to learn Latin?
- A person was not considered educated if they didn't know Latin.
 - Latin was the language spoken in England at that time.
 - Church services were in Latin, laws were written in Latin, and older boys were required to speak only Latin at school.
 - He needed to learn Latin so he could read the plays written by the Romans.
- ___ 10. What happened when Will was thirteen years old?
- Will's father, John, died.
 - The family fell on hard times because the wool trade collapsed.
 - Will was sent to the university to study and write.
 - Will left school to take odd jobs to help his mother pay bills.

Who Was William Shakespeare? — Little Will

Critical Thinking

On page 5 there is a list of phrases coined by Shakespeare. Tell what you think each of these phrases means:

1. “All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players . . .”

2. “Neither a borrower, nor a lender be . . .”

Why shouldn’t you be a borrower or a lender? What are possible problems you could face by being a borrower?

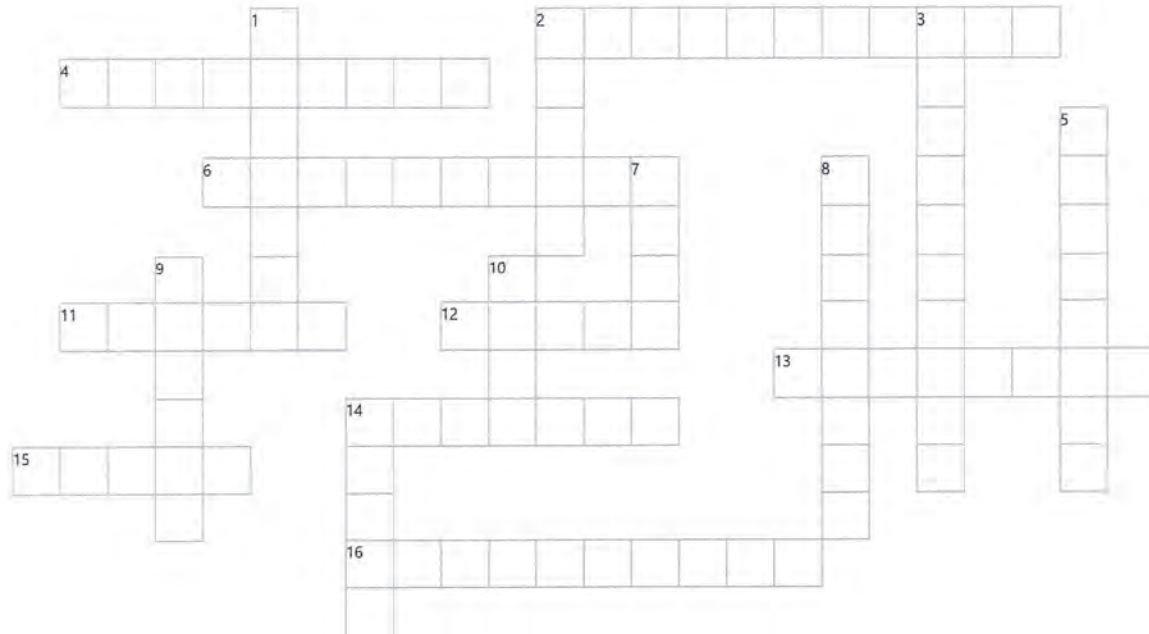
What are possible problems you could face by being a lender?

3. “To thine own self be true . . .”

4. What is a “wild-geese chase”?

Who Was William Shakespeare? — Little Will

Crossword Review



ACROSS

2. English playwright who lived in the late 1500's-early 1600's
4. She was Queen of England during most of Shakespeare's life; Henry VIII's daughter
6. Person who writes plays
11. Created a new word or phrase
12. Wild-_____ chase
13. Members of the highest class of society
14. John Shakespeare's job for a long time: high _____
15. Boys at school had to speak _____ and were spanked if they spoke English.
16. Polish astronomer who first wrote the sun was the center of the universe

DOWN

1. Famous playwright born about the same time as Shakespeare but who died young
2. All the world's a _____
3. Person who learns by working with an expert
5. Town famous for its mystery plays
7. To thine own self be _____ ...
8. Neither a _____ or a lender be ...
9. Roman poet who lived 1600 years before Shakespeare from whom Shakespeare borrowed the Romeo & Juliet plot
10. The _____ trade was England's largest industry prior to 1570.
14. Another name for bubonic plague: _____ death

TRUE	MARLOWE	STAGE	COVENTRY	PLAYWRIGHT
BLACK	SHAKESPEARE	NOBILITY	COPERNICUS	BORROWER
APPRENTICE	VIRGIL	ELIZABETH	BAILIFF	LATIN
GOOSE	COINED	WOOL		