

William Shakespeare  
"The Bard"

# Biography

"To be, or not to be? That is the question."

- Born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon
- Parents came from money
- Married Anne Hathaway (26) when he was 18 yrs. old
- Had 3 children: Susanna, Hamnet, and Judith. Hamnet dies at age 11.
- Successful actor and leading poet (Chamberlain's Men)
- Wrote at least 36 plays, 154 sonnets and other poems
- Become joint owner of the Famous Globe Theater in 1599
- Died on April 23, 1616 (52nd Birthday)



# London England

Renaissance (re-birth) of Arts and Sciences

## Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603)

- Ruled for 45 years
- Economy weakened by inflation, food shortage, high rent
- Outbreak of black plague, food riots, threats of invasion
- 100's of people were convicted as witches and executed

## King James I (1603-1625)

- Believed in the supernatural
- Interested in witchcraft
- Commissioned translation of bible from Latin to English



**A. Tragedies**

# Famous Plays

1. Hamlet

2. Romeo and Juliet

3. MacBeth

4. Othello

**B. Histories**

1. Henry IV

2. Julius Caesar

3. Antony & Cleopatra

**C. Comedies**

1. The Comedy of Errors

2. Alls Well that Ends Well

3. A Midsummer Nights Dream



# Interesting Facts

- Boys and men played all the parts in his plays
- Shakespeare would act in his own plays
- Shakespeare's death is a mystery
- The plague outbreak in Europe caused London playhouses to close between 1592 and 1594. He decided to write poetry.
- Plays were only performed in the afternoon, by daylight
- Laws prohibited people from dressing above their rank or else they would be arrested. Actors were the only exception to this rule.
- None of Shakespeare's original manuscripts exist because they were written too quickly in order to perform them on stage.
- The words "cursed be he that moves my bones" were inscribed on his grave

# Shakespeare's Style

Use of **SIMILES**- compares two things using like or as

Use of **METAPHORS**- comparing something in terms of something else

Use of **SOLILOQUIES**- somebody talking to himself

Use of **PROLOGUES**- a quick summary of what is to be expected

Use of **ASIDES**- saying something to the audience that other players can't hear

Use of **IMAGERY** -appeals to the senses

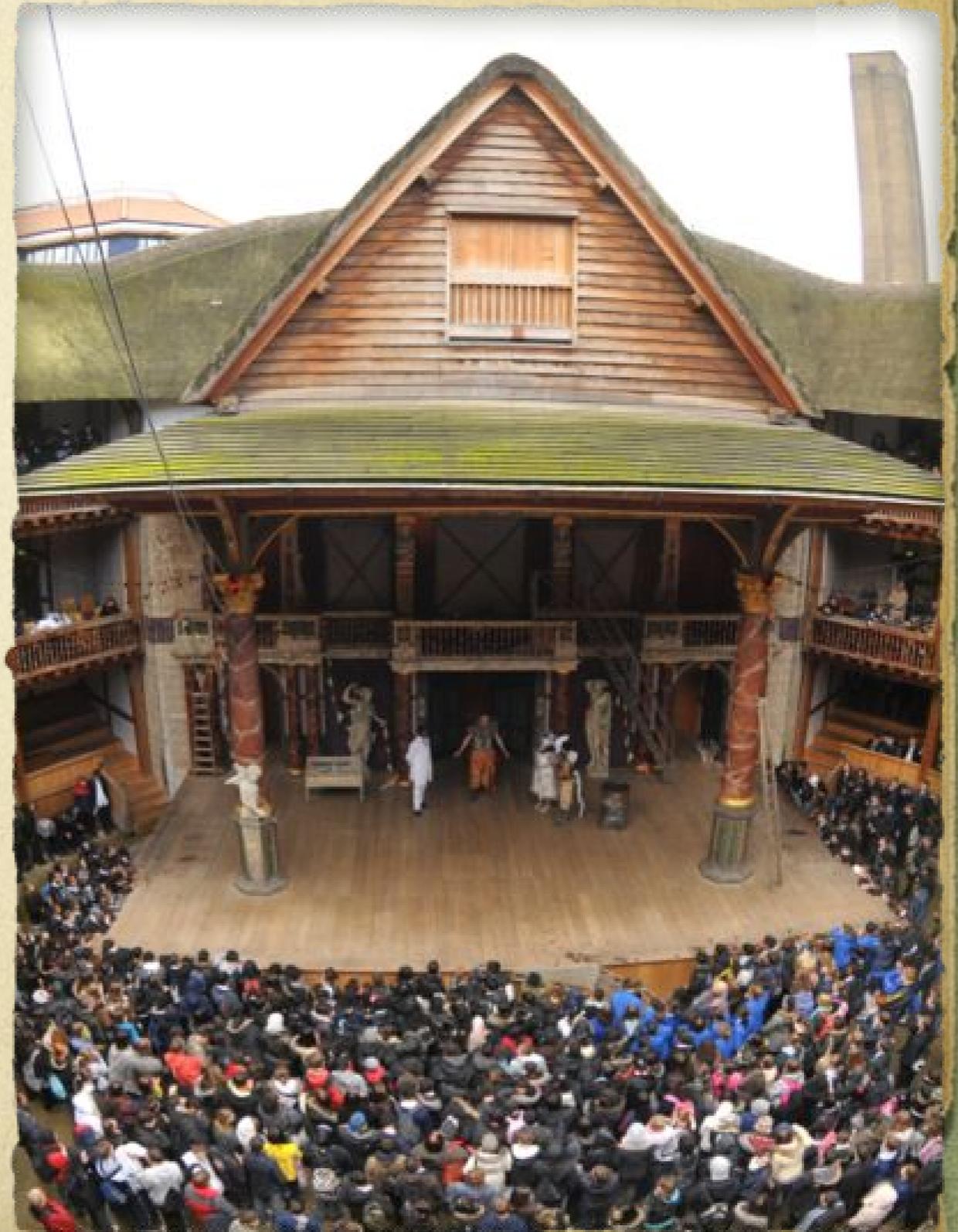
Use of **SYMBOLISM**- any object, person, place or action that stands for something larger than itself. (idea, belief, or value)

Use of **FORESHADOWING** - clues or hints about the outcomes are carefully planted throughout the story

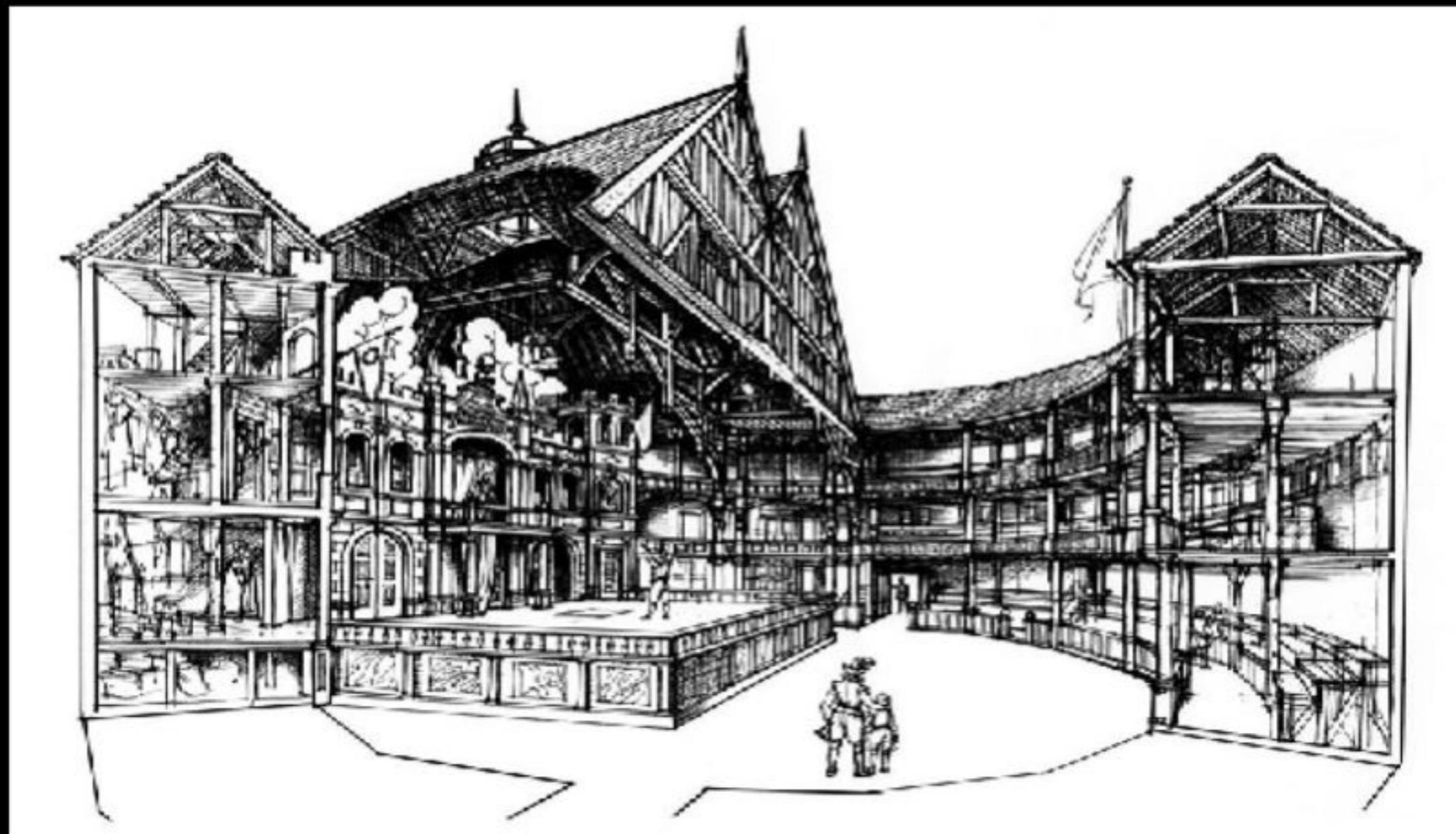
Use of **DENOUEMENT** -final explanation or outcome of the plot

# The Globe Theater

- Had a 1500 + audience capacity.
- No heating. Plays were performed in the summer
- Built in a similar style to the Colosseum (amphitheaters)
- Color-coding flags were used to advertise the type of play being performed. Black-tragedy; white-comedy; red-history
- Many of the boy actors died of lead poisoning due to the vast quantities of lead in their make-up
- Fire at the globe theater broke out in June 29, 1613. The 2nd Globe Theater was built in 1614
- The Globe Theater was demolished in 1644



# The Globe Theater





The Modern Globe Theater



Shakespeare's home, which is currently a museum.

# Shakespeare Language

- **Alas**- exclamation of sadness/regret
- **Hence**- from this time forward ( 2 weeks hence= 2 weeks from now)
- **Perchance**- perhaps / maybe
- **Wilt**- will, will you
- **Thee/thou/thy**- different forms of "your"
- **Anon**- in a little while
- **Whence**- from what place, source, or cause
- **Aye**- yes
- **Morrow**- the next day
- **Beseech**- ask for
- **Bite your thumb** - ultimate insult

# Tragic Hero

A person of high rank who is brought to eventual ruin by a flaw in his/her character.

As we read the play, think about what Romeo's tragic flaw is.

STOP

End of part 1

# ROMEO AND JULIET

## BACKGROUND

### **House of Capulet**

*Juliet*: Main Character, 13 yrs. old

*Tybalt*: Juliet's cousin, enemy of Montagues

*Nurse*: Juliet's servant, confidant of Juliet

*Capulet*: Juliet's father

*Paris*: Wants to marry Juliet

### **House of Montague**

*Romeo*: Main Character, 16 yrs. old

*Mercutio*: Best friend of Romeo, related to the prince

*Benvolio*: Romeo's cousin and friend

*Friar Laurence*: Priest, confidant to Romeo & Juliet

# Romeo and Juliet

Begins with a ***prologue***- gives an outline of the story foreshadowing future events

The play is in chronological order. There are no flashbacks and no dream scenes

The point of view is seen mostly from Romeo's perspective

The play takes place in Verona, Italy around the 1500's

The play opens on a street where the two feuding families run into each other

# The Prologue

Two households, both alike in dignity,  
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,  
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,  
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.  
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes  
A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life;  
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows  
Doth with their death bury their parent's strife.  
The fearful passage of their death-marked love,  
And the continuance of their parent's rage,  
Which, but their children's end, naught could  
Remove,  
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;  
The which of you with patient ears attend,  
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

# The Prologue

## Modern Terms

The Montagues and Capulets are both very wealthy and powerful

The story takes place in Verona which is an Italian city

They hold a grudge against each other for no reason

The feuds continue with new generations

The should be respectful

From these two groups of enemies a pair of lovers emerge

And end up killing themselves

They had endured bad luck

But through their deaths, the feud ended

With their adventure that went wrong

One good thing came from it

Their death was the only thing that could have stopped the hate/bloodshed

This play will last for two hours

If you listen you will understand,

if not we will try to clear it up for you at the end

# QUOTES

## What do they mean?

- My only love sprung from my only hate!
- If ever you disturb our streets again, your lives shall pay the forfeit of the peace.
- A rose by any other name would smell as sweet!
- She teaches the torches to burn!
- A plague on both your houses!

# Elements of Literature

## Protagonist- The Good Guy



## Antagonist- The Bad Guy



## Point of View - Perspective of the story.



**The pigs' side**- The big bad wolf blew their houses down and tried to eat them.

**The wolf's side**- He had a really bad cold and just wanted a tissue.

## Conflict- The struggle within the plot between opposing forces.

## ... other types of CONFLICT:

Man Vs. Man



Man Vs. Self



Man Vs. Society



Man Vs. Nature



**The ceiling of Shakespeare's stages was called "The Heavens"**

**Shakespeare was said to have enjoyed playing the part of the ghost in Hamlet.**

**Shakespeare was 17 or 18 when he married his wife, Anne Hathaway was 26.**

**No one knows how Shakespeare died. Some guesses are kidney disease, murder, too much alcohol.**

**U.S. President Abraham Lincoln enjoyed reading Shakespeare.**

**The average American's vocabulary is around 10,000 words- 15,000 if you are REALLY SMART. Shakespeare had a vocabulary of over 29,000 words.**

**The words "assassination", "puke", "bedroom" and "bump" were invented by Shakespeare.**

**If you say "laugh it off" you are quoting Shakespeare.**