

## SHAKESPEARE WANTED: WORKSHEET

Try to do the following quiz with the help of the Shakespeare WANTED poster.

- 1) From which social background did Shakespeare come?  
a) merchants    b) farmers    c) aristocracy    d) musicians
- 2) What was Shakespeare's job? (note: several answers are possible)  
a) accountant    b) playwright    c) actor    d) poet    e) cattle merchant
- 3) What is interesting about Shakespeare's death?  
a) he was murdered  
b) he died very close to or perhaps even on his 52nd birthday  
c) he did not die at all  
d) he died in a traffic accident
- 4) Which of these plays was NOT written by Shakespeare?  
a) *Hamlet*    b) *The Taming of the Shrew*  
c) *Richard III*    d) *The Importance of Being Earnest*



### Mysterious William: get creative!

There are a number of mysteries surrounding William Shakespeare because not a lot of records survive from his lifetime. What do you think happened?

- 1) The entry about Shakespeare's death in the church record does not tell us why Shakespeare died – he was only 52 years old. What do you think he died of?

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2) Shakespeare actually went missing, at least from the perspective of a Shakespeare scholar: he disappears from all historical records for six years: in the time between starting a family in Stratford and his early career as a man of the theatre in London. Nobody knows what he did in the years in between. What do you think he was up to?

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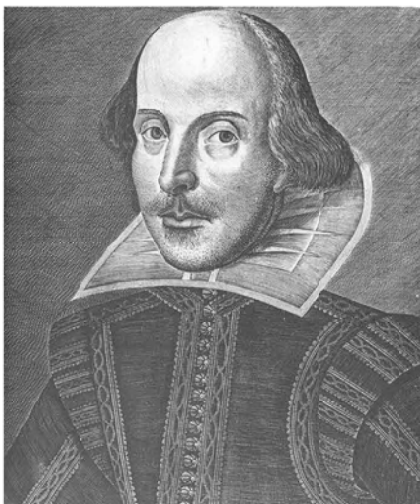
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We also don't quite know what Shakespeare looked like. Compare the three portraits that are supposed to show Shakespeare: what do you think, what do these portraits tell us about him?



[engraving by Martin Droeshout from 1623, printed on the title page of Mr William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories & Tragedies, the book we now call the First Folio, Collection of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust]

In this portrait, Shakespeare looks like....

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# History

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[portrait by an unknown artist from about 1610, Cobbe Collection]

In this portrait, Shakespeare looks like....

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In this portrait, Shakespeare looks like....

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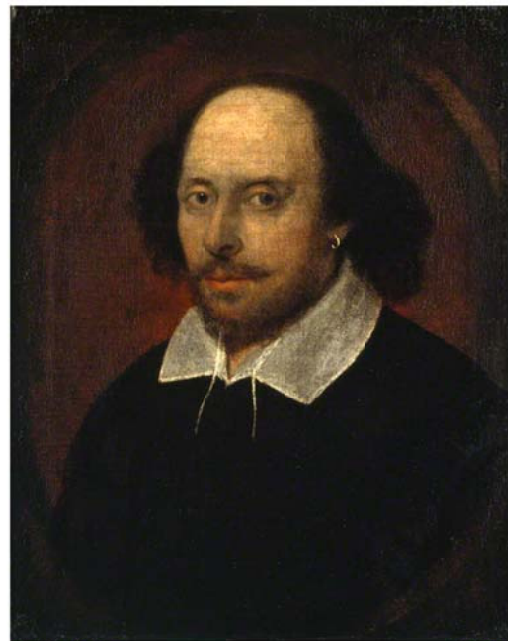
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[William Shakespeare, associated with John Taylor, circa 1600-1610 NPG 1, National Portrait Gallery London]

Solutions to the quiz: 1a, 2b+c+d, 3b, 4d