

Name _____

Date _____



Shakespeare

"The Bard's Got Bars"

William Shakespeare is regarded as one of the greatest artists who ever lived. He was a major playwright, poet and actor in London, England during the 16th century. He wrote 37 plays, 154 sonnets and five long poems. They built an entire theater for his work called The Globe, and he died on his birthday. How's that for poetry?

William, Mr. William Shakespeare,
Got one thing that we want to make clear.
He's a master, the Bard's got bars,
His work's still got what it takes to get you charged.
William, Mr. William Shakespeare,
Got one thing that we want to make clear.
He had it all: love, death, intrigue.
He was ill with the quill, in his own league.

Shouts out to Shakespeare, the Bard.
He was so prolific, yo, where should I start?
With his tragedies, where the hero has a flaw
That gives rise to his demise, downfall.
Like Hamlet, you know, "To be or not to be."
He struggles with revenge, you've got to read.
But Shakespeare wrote comedies, too.
Usually about love or some drama with boo,
And they tend to end with a marriage,
But there's always a twist, yeah, there is.
Twelfth Night, where nothing is as it seems.
For a little fantasy, A Midsummer Night's Dream.

And we can't forget Shake's histories
About England's kings, it's a breeze.
There was Henry V and Richard III,
Embellishing the facts is what he did with his words.
I see his subjects still resonate centuries later:
Love, death, fate, dealing with your haters.
Shakes wrote stuff that everybody jams with,
Like did you know The Lion King is based off Hamlet?

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Shakespeare was a master of language,
In a class of his own, no rapper could hang with.
Part of his plays are completely in rhyme,
Like Macbeth, I could read a couple lines:
"Double double toil and trouble;
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.
Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the caldron boil and bake."
That's a reference that Macbeth was going to struggle,
He hit them with the wordplay, straight and subtle,
Like when Romeo compares Juliet to the sun
Or when Macbeth says his mind is full of scorpions.
There's figurative language, page after page,
In As You Like It he says, "All the world's a stage."

Matter of fact, he penned many a famous phrase:

"Love is blind," "full circle" — I could go on for days.

But if you still don't believe,

He "fought fire with fire" and "wore his heart on his sleeve."

He even invented his own words,

All kinds of adjectives, nouns and verbs:

"Fashionable," "gnarled," "disheartened," "puking."

And he invented "swagger," what, y'all thought that was a new thing?

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