

**Note: Click on the Description to get the Link
for VideoExplanation:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWPdrsE7DgA>

William Shakespeare- 1564-1616

Some points to remember-

1. Often referred to as “**Bard of Avon**”. Bard is an ancient Celtic term for a poet who composed songs about heroes. (Celt- a branch of the Indo-European family and include Irish, Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, Breton, Manx, Cornish, and several extinct pre-Roman languages such as Gaulish.)
2. Introduced more than **1700** new words into the English language.
3. Has had his works translated into more than **118 languages**, including sign language.
4. **Robert Greene**, a rival dramatist, referred to him as “**upstart crow**”.
5. Played the role of **King Duncan** in the stage production of Macbeth.
6. In the **1590s**, he concentrated on **comedies**, such as A Midsummer’s Night Dream, and **histories**, such as Henry IV, Parts I and II.
7. In 1594, Shakespeare joined the Lord Chamberlain’s Men, the most prestigious theatre company in England. The company frequently performed before Queen Elizabeth I in her court.

8. In 1599, they purchased and rebuild the theatre across the Thames the Globe.
9. Queen Elizabeth's Scottish cousin James succeeded her in 1603. James became the patron or chief sponsor of Shakespeare's company, thereafter known as The King's Men.
10. Between 1600 and 1607, Shakespeare wrote his greatest tragedies, including Hamlet, Macbeth and King Lear.
11. In 1623, his two theatre colleagues published collection of his plays in a volume called the First Folio. In an introduction to the volume, the playwright Ben Johnson declared that Shakespeare "was not of an age, but for all time."
12. Shakespearean tragedy presents a superior figure – a tragic hero- who comes to ruin because of an error of judgment or a weakness in character- the tragic flaw.
13. One or more antagonists, or opposing characters, work against the tragic hero and the action brings the catastrophe, a disastrous end involving death.
14. His tragedy Macbeth is written in blank verse, or unrhymed iambic pentameter, in which the normal line has five stressed syllables, each preceded by an unstressed syllable.

"And *wash* this *filthy* *witness* *from* your *hand*."

When we divide the verse into iambic feet, the line looks like this:

And *wash* | this *fil* | thy *wit* | ness *from* | your *hand*

You can see five feet of iambic meter; each foot has one unaccented syllable followed by an accented one.

15. Characters often reveal their private thoughts in **soliloquies** and **asides**, which other characters cannot hear.
16. Enjoyment of the action is sometimes enhanced through the use of **foreshadowing**- hints about what may happen later, - and **dramatic irony**- the contrast created when the audience knows more about the situation than the character does.