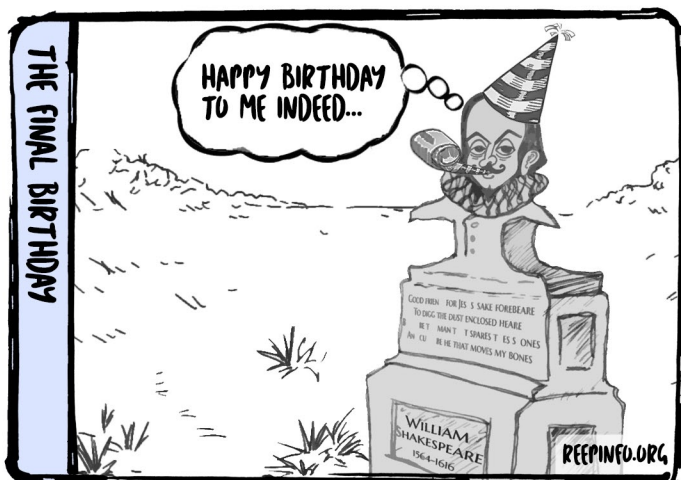
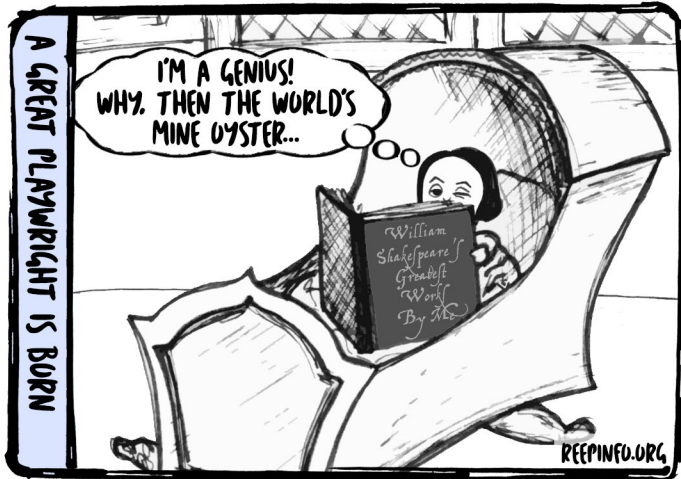


### Introducing Shakespeare

Look at the cartoon then read the information on the following page





## Introducing Shakespeare (continued)

### England's greatest playwright is born

The great English writer William Shakespeare was born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon in England. Little is known about Shakespeare's early life. We know that at the age of seven he began grammar school in Stratford-upon-Avon, and that in 1582 he married Anne Hathaway, a local farmer's daughter. William was eight years younger than his wife Anne. Anne and her husband William had three children but unfortunately their son, Hamnet, died at the age of eleven. They were left with two daughters, Susanna and Judith

### From Stratford to London

It was at the age of twenty-one that Shakespeare's career as a writer and actor really began, when he left Stratford-upon-Avon to go to London. He soon wrote his first successful play, Henry VI. It was performed in London's Rose Theatre. Two years later, Shakespeare created an acting company called the Lord Chamberlain's Men (later renamed the King's Men when King James I acceded to the throne).

### The plays

Before long, Shakespeare's work became popular with people in England; even Queen Elizabeth I was a firm supporter! During his life he wrote many famous plays including *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Richard II*, *Richard III*, *As You Like It*, *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *King Lear*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Macbeth*, and *The Tempest*. He also wrote excellent poetry, in the form of sonnets.

### The Globe Theatre

A new theatre was needed for the Lord Chamberlain's men to perform these plays regularly. The first Globe Theatre was built in London between 1598-1599. However, it was only suitable for performances in spring, summer and autumn because the circular building had no roof! Unfortunately, the theatre was burnt to the ground in 1613 when a cannon fired during a performance of Henry VIII caused it to catch fire! A new Globe Theatre was built and opened to the public in 1614, but was demolished thirty years later.

### The last birthday

By a strange coincidence, Shakespeare died on his birthday, April 23, in 1616. He is buried in Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-upon-Avon.

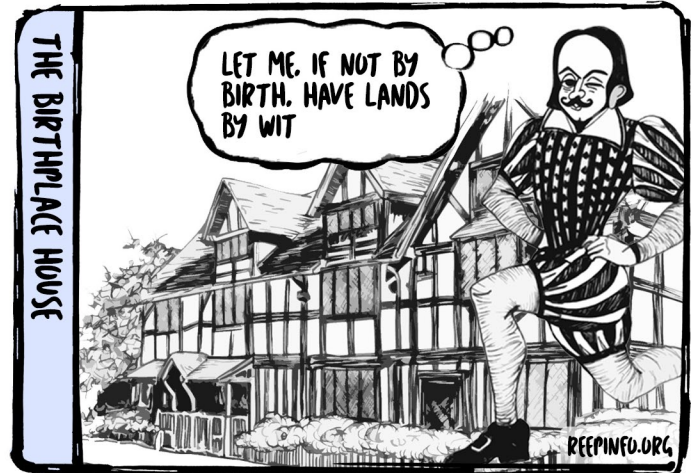
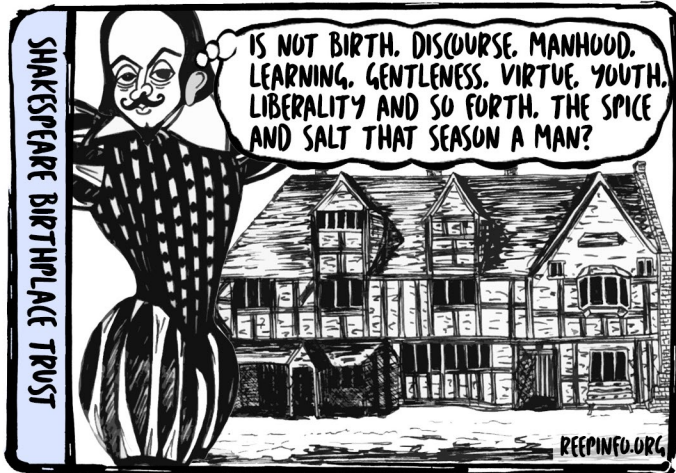
### INTERESTING FACT

Did you know that London's present Globe Theatre, which was built in 1997, stands just a few hundred yards from the site of the original 1598 building?



Introducing Shakespeare (continued)

Look at the cartoon then read the information on the following page





## Introducing Shakespeare (continued)

### The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust was formed in 1847 when it bought the house where William Shakespeare was born in order to preserve it for the people of Britain. Today, the Trust owns and manages five Shakespeare-related sites in Stratford-upon-Avon. Last year, 825,000 tourists visited Stratford to see these beautiful and historic sites.

### The Shakespeare Birthplace House

This is the house where William Shakespeare was born and where he grew up with his parents, brothers and sisters. The first five years of his married life with Anne Hathaway were also spent here. Shakespeare inherited this large house after his father's death in 1601.

### New Place

Shakespeare bought New Place in 1597 once he had become an admired and celebrated playwright with a good income. At the time, it was the largest house and garden in Stratford-upon-Avon. Shakespeare and his family lived at New Place until he died in April 1616.

### Hall's Croft

Hall's Croft was the home of Shakespeare's eldest daughter Susannah and her husband John Hall. Hall was a well-known doctor who often used treatments made from plants, herbs and other natural materials. Many of the plants Dr Hall would have used can be found in the tranquil gardens today.

### Anne Hathaway's Cottage

This small cottage is the former home of Shakespeare's wife Anne Hathaway and her family. The cottage and gardens were originally a farmhouse and farmyard because the Hathaway family were very successful sheep farmers. Today, the gardens are full of pretty flowers and herbs.

### Mary Arden's Farm

This working farm and attached farmhouse was built by Mary Arden's father, Robert Arden in around 1514. The farmhouse still has the essential structure of a 16th century building but there have been several important additions over the years.