



Otázka: William Shakespeare

Jazyk: Angličtina

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William Shakespeare was probably the greatest writer in the English language. He lived and worked in 16th century in the period of Renaissance. He was born in 1564 in Stratford. At the age of 18 he married Anne Hathaway, who was eight years older than himself. They have three children together. In spite of love for his family, he went to London because only in London he could get ahead and make a career. In London Shakespeare and his fellow friends were lucky enough to be able to win the patronage of the Lord Chamberlain and the company came to be called The Lord Chamberlain's men. His plays may well have been popular with Queen Elizabeth I, who loved music and drama. When James I came to the throne after Elizabeth's death, he recognized Shakespeare's company as the leading group of actors and from then they were known as a King's men. In those times Shakespeare made enough money to build a comfortable life. He died in April 1616 on the same day as he birth, but his plays are still very popular today.

Generally speaking Shakespeare's dramatic works can be divided into tragedies, comedies and historical plays. Besides dramas he wrote extraordinarily beautiful sonnets that would made him world famous even if he had not written anything else. Shakespeare is appreciated because of his love of man and his understanding of human weakness. He was not afraid to write about love, passion, power, jealousy or death. His plays are still topical after four centuries because they are realistic and depict characteristic features of men.

In his comedies he dwells on the pleasant aspects of life, the favourite topic is of course, love. The most outstanding comedies are The Merry Wives of Windsor, The Merchant of Venice or A

A Midsummer Night's Dream. His most famous book is probably Romeo and Juliet. It is a tragedy of love in conflict with fate. The story comes originally from Italy, from Verona. Two families the Montagues and the Capulets have disputes and fights whenever they meet. Romeo the only son of the Montagues fall in love with Juliet Capulet. Their love will never be accepted by their families and so they married secretly. After wedding Romeo kills Juliet's cousin Tybalt in duel and He has to flee in Mantova. Juliet wants to avoid marriage with Paris and then she takes a potion which enables her to pretend death, she should awake in 42 hours after drinking the potion. But Romeo doesn't know it and she think that Juliet is death, he killed Paris and then he in Juliet tomb poisons himself. When Juliet awake and recognize what happened she poisoned herself by kissing Romeo's poisoned lips.

Shakespeare wrote other plays too, like Macbeth, King Lear or Hamlet, which is based on the Danish legend.