

Shakespeare Trivia Anthology

Canadian Adaptations of Shakespeare Project (CASP)

Shakespeare Learning Commons

FACT	
1.	Shakespeare is thought to have been born on April 23, 1564 and to have died the same day 52 years later.
2.	During his lifetime, John Shakespeare (William's father) did all of these jobs: glove maker, wool-dealer, moneylender, constable, chamberlain, alderman, bailiff, and justice of the peace.
3.	Many of Shakespeare's early sonnets are likely to have been written to another man: Henry Wriothesley, the 3rd Earl of Southampton.
4.	In his will, Shakespeare left his wife Anne Hathaway his "second best bed with the furniture." Second-best bed was not as bad as it sounds because the best bed was reserved for guests.
5.	The open-air theatres that Shakespeare's plays were first performed in were designed in the same style as the bear-baiting gardens (circular buildings with an open roof and a pit in the centre for the bear or the theatre audience).
6.	A Google search for "Shakespeare" returns over 119 million hits. That's more than Michael Jackson (42 million), Avril Lavigne (29 million) and Tiger Woods (21 million) combined.
7.	Shakespeare invented over 1700 commonly used words in English (like "madcap," "obscene," "puking," "outbreak," "watchdog," "addiction," "cold-blooded," "secure," and "torture").
8.	Shakespeare's plays have a vocabulary of some 17,000 words, four times what a well-educated English speaker would have. Shakespeare used 29,066 different words out of 884,647 words in all.
9.	Shakespeare was so skilled with words that he used 7000 words only once—more than occur in the whole of the King James Bible.
10.	Shakespeare, besides being a very productive writer, was also an actor, a theatre owner, and business person.
11.	The Globe Theater, of which Shakespeare was a part owner, was founded as a joint stock venture in 1599—a very early example of what we now call corporations.
12.	London theaters from Shakespeare's time were the first businesses in the world with the sole purpose of entertainment.
13.	The epitaph to Shakespeare's grave in the Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon, places a curse on anyone who moves his bones, a customary practice in graveyards of the time.
14.	When Shakespeare died at the age of 52 he had written an average of 1.5 plays a year since his start as a writer in 1589.
15.	The word "bottled" meant "swollen" in Shakespeare's time.
16.	Shakespeare's word "gleek" meant to play a practical joke on someone.
17.	The word "housewife" could mean a hussy or a prostitute in Shakespeare's time.
18.	Shakespeare never used the word "fun."
19.	In 1582, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway when he was 18 years old. She was eight years older than him. They had eight children together.
20.	Shakespeare lived through the Black Death, an epidemic of bubonic plague that killed over 33,000 people in London in 1603 and later returned in 1608. The plague was spread by fleas and rats.
21.	Of the 101 most influential people who never lived, Shakespeare's characters are well represented. Hamlet comes in at number 5 after the Marlboro Man, Big Brother, King Arthur, and Santa Claus.
22.	London was Europe's most dynamic city during Shakespeare's time, with a population of some 200,000 people in 1600. By comparison, Paris had approximately 70,000 people.
23.	The cost of going to a university in 1600 was about 20 pounds. A labourer earning minimum wage would have made about 8 pounds a year; Shakespeare is estimated to have earned between 200 and 700 pounds a year.
24.	Not everyone liked Shakespeare. Another playwright, Robert Greene, called Shakespeare an "upstart young crow."
25.	Commoners or "groundlings" were people who paid a penny to stand and watch a play. In the summer, groundlings were also called "stinkards" because of their smell.
26.	In addition to having no heat, Elizabethan theatres did not have toilets.
27.	Bear-baiting was a popular form of entertainment in Shakespeare's time. A bloody sport, bear-baiting involved tying a bear to a post and letting dogs attack it. Queen Elizabeth I enjoyed bear-baiting and when Parliament tried to ban the practice she over-ruled it.
28.	Elizabethan theatres could hold up to 3000 people.
29.	Many Londoners were strict Protestants or Puritans who thought of the theatre as an immoral place. In 1596

the London theatres were forced to move outside the city limits (to the South side of the River Thames) because of pressure from the Church and City of London officials.
30. Women did not act on the stage during Shakespeare's time. Boy actors played female parts and sometimes the parts of old men. Boy actors could be "pressed" into service, that is, forced to serve like soldiers conscripted for army service.
31. In Shakespeare's time there were entire companies of actors composed of children.
32. Shakespeare's play that spoofs pedants (people who show off their learning about minor things), <i>Love's Labour's Lost</i> , contains a nonsense word with 13 syllables: honorificabilitudinitatibus.
33. The word "death" was pronounced approximately like the word "debt" in Shakespeare's time. This allowed for all sorts of puns on the two words as in Hotspur's lines from <i>1 Henry 4</i> : "To answer all the Debt he owes unto you, / Even with the bloody Payment of your deaths."
34. Words that have the same sounds but different meanings are called homonyms. "Eat" and "hate" for example were words that were pronounced the same way in Shakespeare's time.
35. Shakespeare's shortest play, <i>The Comedy of Errors</i> , has 1770 lines.
36. Shakespeare's tragedy <i>King Lear</i> , a play about a mad king, was banned from stages in England from 1788 to 1820 because of King George III's insanity.
37. Dictionaries as we know them did not exist in Shakespeare's time.
38. Shakespeare's plays have been adapted into all sorts of different contexts including the Pocahontas story: American Charlotte Barnes, for example, adapted <i>The Tempest</i> in her 1844 play <i>The Forest Princess</i> , which retells the story of Pocahontas and Captain John Smith.
39. Shakespeare's life at grammar school was extremely demanding with summer course work beginning at six o'clock in the morning and finishing at five o'clock in the evening with a two-hour midday break. Because of the dark nights the hours changed during the winter, starting at seven and finishing at four—a prelude to daylight savings.
40. Shakespeare probably spent at least 2,000 hours in school each year – more than double current school hours.
41. <i>The Tempest</i> was Shakespeare's last play, of which he was the sole author, and many people believe that the play's main character, Prospero, was Shakespeare's way of saying farewell to the theatre.
42. In Shakespeare's play <i>The Tempest</i> , the source of Prospero's magic is his staff and his library of books. When Prospero decides to give up his magic, he speaks these lines: "I'll break my staff, Bury it certain fathoms in the earth, And deeper than did ever plummet sound I'll drown my book."
43. In Shakespeare's play <i>Othello</i> , the character Iago is Othello's ensign, and is passed over for promotion to lieutenant. In reaction to this, Iago says "'Tis the curse of service. Preferment goes by letter and affection."
44. In the film adaptation of <i>Othello</i> called 'O', Josh Hartnett plays the character of Hugo, an adaptation of Iago. He manipulates Odin (based on Othello) into believing that his girlfriend Desi (based on Desdemona) is cheating on him.
45. When London was plague-ridden and its theaters had been closed by "contagion" (1592-93), Shakespeare wrote two long poems, <i>Venus and Adonis</i> and <i>The Rape of Lucrece</i> . The word "contagion" had strong associations with the bubonic plague spread by fleas during Shakespeare's time. Contagion meant "infection," "pestilence" — or simply the communication of a disease by contact with someone.
46. There have been over 50 adaptations of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> written in Canada from before Confederation (1867) to the present.
47. <i>Hamlet</i> has been adapted in Canada more than any other of Shakespeare's plays.
48. Shakespeare is thought to be the world's most produced and most adapted playwright.
49. The Sanders Portrait of Shakespeare is owned by a Canadian, and has the most scientific evidence supporting its authenticity.
50. Canada has produced close to 500 adaptations of Shakespeare's work in a span of about 150 years. One quarter of those adaptations were done in French.
51. Canadians have produced hockey, vampire, rap, rave, cowboy, aboriginal, African-Canadian, and political adaptations of Shakespeare.
52. In 1990 an adaptation of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> called <i>Romeo & Juliette</i> (by Gordon McCall and Robert Lepage) featured the Montague family as English Canadians and the Capulet family as Franco-Canadians.
53. In 1984 there was an adaptation of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> called <i>Hô Mão and Julieta: a multi-cultural Romeo and</i>

<i>Juliet</i> produced in Toronto's Kensington Market, an area of Toronto just west of Chinatown that dates back to British settlement in 1790s and is well-known for its fruit stalls and cafés.
54. Luigi da Porto's story <i>Istoria Novellamenta Ritrovata di due Nobili Amanti</i> was published in 1530 and was the first telling of the <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> story to be placed in Verona and based on the families Montecchi Cappelletti.
55. Jean-Louis Roux has translated 6 of Shakespeare's play into French. Many of his translations maintain the sound and sense of Shakespeare's text even when performed in another language. For example, he translated Shakespeare's text "Oh Juliet, I already know thy grief. It strains me past the compass of my wits" (act 4, scene 1, line 46) to «Oh Juliette, je connais déjà ton chagrin; Et il me déchire, passé ma pensée» (act 4, scene 1, line 46).
56. Before Romeo meets Juliet in Shakespeare's play, he is in love with her cousin Rosaline. In Andrew Batten's adaptation he tells the story of Romeo and Rosaline as a prequel to the Shakespeare story we know.
57. <i>Roméo et Julien</i> is a Canadian adaptation of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> where two men explore their love for each other using the famous balcony scene from Shakespeare's play.
58. In the 2002 adaptation <i>Romeo/Juliet Remixed</i> the lovers meet by using cell phone text messages while at a dance club; Romeo tells Juliet UR MY F8.
59. In Jerry Prager's adaptation of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> called <i>Rosaline and Benvolio</i> , Romeo and Juliet never appear onstage. Instead, Prager tells the story of Romeo and Juliet's cousins who also fall in love. The difference here is that they stay alive to the end of the play!
60. In Ondinnok Theatre's adaptation <i>Sakitpitcikan</i> the actors and director developed the story collectively based on ideas from <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> . In <i>Sakitpitcikan</i> , the Romeo and Juliet characters live, while others commit suicide in order to protect traditional Atikamekw ways of life.
61. In Shakespeare's play Juliet is being forced by her father to marry Paris when she is only 13. Most productions of the play are performed by actors much older than this, except for Josephine Barrington's productions in the 1930s, which featured her company of 'Juvenile Players.'
62. Lady Capulet is not given a first name in Shakespeare's <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> . It is, however, possible that her name is Angelica because of an ambiguous line that Lord Capulet says in Act 4.
63. There was an earthquake in England in 1584 that the Nurse in <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> mentions in act one scene three.
64. Romeo and Juliet's suicides are two of thirteen suicides in Shakespeare's plays (3 in <i>Julius Caesar</i> , one in <i>Othello</i> , one in <i>Hamlet</i> , one in <i>Macbeth</i> , and five in <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>).
65. Juliet would have been played by a boy actor cross-dressed as a girl in Shakespeare's time.
66. Immediately above the stage wall was a balcony that was used either by actors (Juliet's balcony) or the nobility, known as "Lord's rooms."
67. The most commercially successful film adaptation of a Shakespeare play is director Baz Luhrmann's 1996 <i>William Shakespeare's Romeo+Juliet</i> , an MTV-style, L.A.-gang adaptation starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes.
68. Women actors frequently played Romeo in the nineteenth century, including Priscilla Horton, Charlotte Cushman, Lydia Kelly, and Fay Templeton, who played the last major female Romeo in 1875.
69. Shakespeare loved using puns in his writing. Puns are words or phrases that have a humorous effect because they confuse different meanings carried in the same word. In Shakespeare's <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , for example, after being stabbed Mercutio says, "Ask for me tomorrow and you shall find me a grave man." The pun is on "grave," a place of burial but also meaning "serious."
70. Many common expressions in English derive from Shakespeare: "a tower of strength," "green-eyed jealousy," "a foregone conclusion," "bated breath," "strange bedfellows," and "brave new world" were all coined by Shakespeare. "Wild goose chase" is a phrase coined by Shakespeare from <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> .
71. <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> 's most famous line is widely misunderstood. The word "wherefore" means "why", not "where," so when Juliet calls from the balcony, "O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?" she is asking why his name (by extension, his family's name) makes him an enemy of her family.
72. In Shakespeare's day there were no sewers, so sewage and waste water would run down the middle of the streets.
73. There are over 600 references to birds of all kinds in Shakespeare's plays.
74. "Fond" meant "foolish" in Shakespeare's time.
75. In Shakespeare's peak writing time (1500s and early 1600s), about 900 plays were in the theatre repertory, with 850 of those written by about 44 authors.
76. The Elizabethan school week consisted of five full days and a half-day on Thursday for 40 to 44 weeks of the

<p>year. Shakespeare, then, probably spent at least 2,000 hours in school – more than double current school hours. This pattern would normally last from the age of 10 to the age of fourteen, at which point boys would begin university.</p>
<p>77. <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> is second only to <i>Hamlet</i> in the number of film adaptations that have been made of it.</p>
<p>78. Before Shakespeare's play the story of Romeo and Juliet was fairly obscure, known in England only through a long (and rather boring) poem published in 1562 by Arthur Brooke called <i>The Tragical History of Romeus and Juliet</i>.</p>
<p>79. Renaissance Italian cities were well-known for having ongoing feuds between prominent families.</p>
<p>80. Shakespeare's <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> was part of the literary trend to write sonnets in the late 1580s and 1590s. The first dialogue between Romeo and Juliet and the Chorus speeches are all written as sonnets and the play is full of other examples of this popular form of writing.</p>
<p>81. Both Italy and England had prominent families whose surname was Montague.</p>
<p>82. Juliet is also the name for a Shakespeare character in <i>Measure for Measure</i>, where she is made pregnant by Claudio, her lover who is sentenced to death for having done so.</p>
<p>83. <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> was one of Spanish writer Federico García Lorca's favourite plays. García Lorca was one of the twentieth century's greatest poets and was murdered by Fascists just prior to the onset of the Spanish Civil War. García Lorca's play <i>The Public</i> is a partial adaptation of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> and also <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>.</p>
<p>84. There have been at least two country-western adaptations of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> in Canada including <i>Rodeo & Julie-ed</i> (by Peter Skagen) and <i>Rodéo et Juliette</i> by Jean-Claude Germain.</p>
<p>85. Many adaptations of Shakespeare try to 'fix' the Bard's plays by making them more acceptable to modern audiences. In 1880, Ernest Longley wrote an adaptation of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> where Romeo gets a large inheritance that allows him to marry Juliet happily in the end.</p>
<p>86. In 2002 director Richard Rose created a production of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> that included music, opera, drama, and dance. It was a collaboration that included Ballet Jorgen, The Canadian Opera Company, The Stratford Festival, and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.</p>
<p>87. Shakespeare was understood in his own time to be a subtle commentator on contemporary politics. In 1598, the Earl of Essex went so far as to use the name Sir John Falstaff, a beloved character in a number of Shakespeare plays, in a letter he wrote to another courtier poking fun at Lord Cobham, who had become known in courtly inner circles as Falstaff.</p>
<p>88. Shakespeare extensively revised what many consider to be his greatest play, <i>Hamlet</i>. No other play except for <i>King Lear</i> was as revised by Shakespeare.</p>
<p>89. Shakespeare made use of a number of coded words in his texts: "burial" may well have referred to the fact that Catholic burials in churchyards had been banned during Shakespeare's time; "moon" can be a reference to Queen Elizabeth I; and the "tempest" may well have referenced religious upheavals in England.</p>
<p>90. Shakespeare had a smash hit on his hands at The Rose Theatre, Bankside with <i>Henry VI, Part 1</i> a prequel to his popular history play series. The play was performed to between 2,000 and 3,000 people a night, between April and June in 1592.</p>
<p>91. In August 1596 Shakespeare's 11-year-old son Hamnet died and was buried while his father was touring Kent. The cause of death remains unknown, although both plague and famine were present at that time in the area around Stratford. There would be no more male children in Shakespeare's line.</p>
<p>92. In May 1597 Shakespeare bought New Place, Church Lane in Stratford-upon-Avon, one of the largest houses in town. The late-fifteenth-century half-timbered home was semi-derelict, but had a frontage of 60 feet, including 5 bay windows, 10 fireplaces, and a 180-foot-long garden. The house probably cost about £120.00 (approximately \$213.00).</p>
<p>93. In 1600 the Moroccan Ambassador, Abdul Guahid, stayed in London for around six months and may have met Shakespeare while the poet was at court. The Moor's presence created great interest at the time, and may have been Shakespeare's inspiration for <i>Othello</i>.</p>
<p>94. In Shakespeare's time religious belief was taken very seriously. Shakespeare's family was Catholic (papist or recusant) and in May 1606 Susanna, Shakespeare's 23-year-old daughter, was brought with 20 others before Stratford church court for failing to receive Protestant Easter Communion. Others on the list included old family friends Hamnet and Judith Sadler, after whom Shakespeare's twins were named.</p>
<p>95. A short time after William Shakespeare's death in 1616, the ground of a Catholic safe house in London, England mysteriously caved in and ninety-nine people were killed including two priests. There were indicators that a Catholic-mass or secret underground recusant meeting had been taking place at the time. When the authorities investigated this tragic event, they found that the property was being maintained by funds from</p>

William Shakespeare's estate.
96. In December 1609 a Catholic touring company, The Simpsons of North Egmont, performing in the north of England, was reported by government informers for allegedly mocking and deriding the state religion during a performance of Shakespeare plays.
97. Shakespeare's <i>The Tempest</i> , may be based on the adventures of a ship called the Sea Adventure, which set sail for America in June 1610. The ship was wrecked off the Bermudas on June 24th. The survivors returned home in September, bursting with dramatic stories of the storm. Sir Dudley Digges visited Warwickshire and it is possible that his second-hand telling of the wreck, and a first hand account by William Strachey, were read by Shakespeare, partially inspiring Shakespeare's last play.
98. When Shakespeare died in 1616 from unknown causes, his grave was given pride of place, in front of the altar of Holy Trinity Church in Stratford.
99. The earliest record of Shakespeare in the theatre is an entry in the Declared Accounts of the Treasurer of the Royal Chamber, dated March 15, 1595. Shakespeare is listed as a payee, along with Richard Burbage and William Kempe. They received 20 pounds for a Christmas performance of "two several comedies" before Queen Elizabeth I.
100. It's hard to estimate how much Shakespeare's money would be worth today, but some prices of the time derived from a soldier's shopping list reveal that 24 ounces of bread cost a penny, 2/3 gallon beer also cost a penny, and a pound of cheese cost a penny and a half.
101. The cheapest seats in private theatres of Shakespeare's time were about 6 pennies thus excluding all but the relatively wealthy.
102. Urban crime in Shakespeare's London is not very evident in his plays, but card sharks, the cutpurses, the pimps, bawds, prostitutes, and coney catchers or con-men were all operating in the city. Begging was a crime for able-bodied men over 14.
103. Many different sorts of criminals worked in Shakespeare's time. Some of these included Rufflers, soldiers who bullied, robbed, and stole; Hookers or Anglers, who carried poles with a hook on the end, to snatch items through windows when people slept; and Priggers or horse thieves.
104. During the last decade of Elizabeth I's reign (1593-1603) the economy declined. Poor harvests and outbreaks of plague and influenza increased agricultural prices while wages dropped to a level not seen for three hundred and forty years. Approximately four-fifths of England's population of four million fell below the subsistence level.
105. Queen Elizabeth had extravagant tastes in fashion—an inventory of her clothing in 1600 (3 years before she died) included almost 300 gowns and several hundred other costumes. Towards the end of her reign, English clothing became increasingly exaggerated, following the Queen's eccentric tastes.
106. During Shakespeare's time, London Bridge was a traveler's main access to London and its southern gates served as a warning point to those who threatened the authorities: heads of traitors impaled on sticks were displayed above the gates.
107. Water, even in the country, and especially in the city, was likely to be a carrier of disease during Shakespeare's time. For this reason, those who could afford it drank ale or beer, using water only for washing.
108. As a teenager Shakespeare was employed by an influential family, the Hoghtons, and likely got his first introduction to the theatre through the Hoghtons' rich and powerful friends, the Earls of Derby. (There exists a tantalizing record of one "William Shakeshafte" who worked as a tutor for the Hoghton family.)
109. On opening day in 1911 at the New York Public Library, one of the world's great libraries, the first book requested was Delia Bacon's <i>Philosophy of the Plays of Shakespeare Unfolded</i> . The book was not in the catalog and a staff member donated the book two days later. Fifty years later it was discovered that the request had been a setup; the staff member had hoped to generate publicity for the book
110. Shakespeare was popular with King James I, England's ruler following Elizabeth I. James was so taken with the Bard that he gave his acting company, The Lord Chamberlain's Men a patent allowing them to perform and also made these actors Grooms of the Chamber. The Bard returned the favor by renaming his company, The King's Men.
111. William Shakespeare is one of the most identifiable icons of England. Others include members of England's Royal family, Princess Diana, Westminster Abbey, Big Ben, London Bridge, the Beatles, and red double-decker buses.
112. Bardolatry is the excessive worship of Shakespeare. It can be dated back to the 1769 Shakespeare Jubilee held at Stratford-upon-Avon, which is often seen as the point when Shakespeare stopped being thought of as a popular dramatist and became a literary icon and commodity.
113. For centuries, Shakespeare has been one of Britain's most successful exports, literary or not. In return, he brings in a steady supply of imports in the form of holidaying tourists — a lot of them going to Stratford-upon-Avon.

The tiny town where Shakespeare was born, bred and buried is home to 23,000 people, and almost 25% of them work in the tourist trade, dealing with an annual influx of over 700,000 tourists.
114. On April 23, 2007, Shakespeare's birthday, the Royal Shakespeare Company in England launches its Complete Works Festival, an unprecedented retrospective of all 38 Shakespeare plays and all his poems over the course of a year. With three theaters in Stratford-upon-Avon playing host to fans from all over the world, the RSC expects to sell over 700,000 tickets — ranging from \$10 to \$75.
115. The Royal Shakespeare Company, the world's most famous classical theatre company, has visits from about 800,000 theatregoers a year who spend over 50 million dollars on tickets alone.
116. Poland is spending \$9.6 million to reconstruct a 17th century theater in Gdansk that was based on the Fortune playhouse (a London theater that competed with the Globe when Shakespeare was working there), and staged Shakespeare productions until under communism it was bulldozed to make way for a parking lot.
117. More than 600 films based on Shakespeare's work or life have been made over the past century. Baz Luhrmann's 1996 <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> was a commercial success that pulled in over \$135 million at the box office.
118. The price for the first published collection of Shakespeare's work in 1623, known today as the <i>First Folio</i> , was set at a steep 20 shillings, the cost of over 100 loaves of bread. In 2006, a copy of the <i>First Folio</i> was sold by Sotheby's for £2.8 million in an auction, over \$5 million (USD).
119. Shakespeare is a trusted brand, the center of a global industry that reaches into everything from education to the economy — from the government to <i>The Simpsons</i> . When, in 2002, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was asked if the failure to find Osama bin Laden made the U.S. look inept, he misquoted Hamlet: "Something's neither good nor bad but thinking makes it so, I suppose, as Shakespeare said."
120. "The Simpson's" manglings of the Bard have been deliberate and involve such classics as " <i>Much Apu About Nothing</i> ," in which the Kwik-E-Mart owner faces deportation, and " <i>Dial Z for Zombies</i> ," featuring a fight with the undead Bard.
121. The market for Shakespeare books is too huge to measure, but in 2004, there were around 125 books by or about the Bard published in Britain alone.
122. Queen Elizabeth I reigned from 1558 to her death in 1603; literature from this period is known as Elizabethan. Elizabeth was succeeded by the Stuart King James VI of Scotland, who took the title James I of England as well. English literature of his reign as James I, from 1603 to 1625, is called Jacobean. Shakespeare's career spanned the late Elizabethan and early Jacobean periods.
123. Shakespeare's <i>King Lear</i> (1605) provided glimpses of a world of vagabondage and crime, some of the biggest social problems of his time. These were brought on by poverty, skyrocketing prices of goods, and the movement away from an agricultural economy towards urban industrial culture.
124. The "liberties or suburbs" of early modern London were part of the city, extending up to 3 miles (5 km) from its ancient Roman wall. The liberties were the place where the public, open air theatres that many of Shakespeare's plays were written for were located. Free, or "at liberty," from manorial rule or obligations to the crown, the liberties "belonged" to the city yet fell outside the jurisdiction of the lord mayor, the sheriffs of London, and the Common Council, and they were a public space over which the city had authority but almost no control.
125. Playhouses in Shakespeare's time were regarded as a breeding ground for the plague because they brought large numbers of people together. They were also seen characterized as an infection "pestering the City" and contaminating the morals of the city of London.
126. Renaissance English Humanism was a cultural shift that promoted an intimate familiarity with classical Greek and Latin literature and culture that was itself seen as a powerful incentive for the creation of an English literature of comparable dignity. Shakespeare played an important role in showing that English literature was a match for classical literature.
127. Shakespeare's plays have been adapted into films in many ways. For instance, Directors Svend Gade and Heinz Schall came up with a gender-bending <i>Hamlet</i> in 1920, which starred the famous actress Asta Nielsen as a cross-dressed prince Hamlet.
128. It is likely that Shakespeare encountered Matteo Bandello's telling of the Romeo and Juliet story through translations by Belleforest or William Painter's <i>Palace of Pleasure</i> (1567).
129. In the late 1960s a golden age for Shakespeare movies emerged, beginning with Franco Zeffirelli's <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> (1966), featuring real-life, on-again, off-again lovers Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor, two of the most famous movie actors of their time.
130. Franco Zeffirelli, a famous Italian film director, made a very popular <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> (1968) that reinvented the young lovers (played for once by actors of an age appropriate to their roles) as alienated youth in rebellion against parents who don't understand them. They behave much like the feuding street gangs in <i>West Side Story</i> (1961), the Robert Wise–Jerome Robbins musical adaptation of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> .

131. Richard Loncraine's <i>Richard III</i> (1995) featured Shakespearean actor Ian McKellen as the evil Richard in a 1930s London on the edge of a fascist takeover. The film uses Shakespeare's text to comment on Hitler's rise to power but also to comment on the potential threat of fascism in its own current historical moment.
132. Michael Almereyda's film <i>Hamlet</i> (2000), stars Ethan Hawke and replaces the Danish court with the Denmark Corporation in Manhattan. Elsinore is a nearby luxury hotel. Hawke plays a surly Prince Hamlet disgusted by his stepfather's greed and his mother's veneer of innocence. In the film Hamlet is an amateur filmmaker who lives in a world of television and cinema, an obvious comment on the visual cultures that have increasingly used Shakespeare for their own purposes.
133. The dramatic works of Shakespeare and his contemporaries is today regarded as one of the supreme artistic achievements in literary history; in its own day, however, it was viewed by many as a scandal and an outrage—a hotly contested and controversial phenomenon that religious and civic authorities vigorously sought to outlaw.
134. In 1572, players (actors) were defined as vagabonds—criminals subject to arrest, whipping, and branding unless they were “liveried” servants of an aristocratic household.
135. During Shakespeare's time Catholics were forbidden by law from practicing their faith. Priests were hunted down and executed. Catholic families frequently fled London in the middle of the night on rumours about forthcoming Protestant attacks.
136. Shakespeare was a country boy who grew up in a town (Stratford) in Warwickshire of only about 1500 people.
137. Shakespeare frequently refers to "kites" in his plays. These were a very common (now very rare) bird of prey known as a vicious scavenger, often found feeding on the dead bodies of criminals and traitors left hanging for public display in London.
138. Shakespeare was not paid for his published work: he received no money from the sale of his printed play quartos and was dead when his collected works were published in 1623 by two of his friends.
139. Shakespeare coined an amazing number of words and invented many of our common words by changing nouns into verbs, changing verbs into adjectives, connecting words never before used together, adding prefixes and suffixes, and devising words wholly original.
140. Among others, Shakespeare coined the following words: critic (first used in <i>Love's Labours Lost</i> , one of Shakespeare's earliest plays), puking, undress, arouse, and zany. He also coined the word "luggage," first used in <i>King Henry 4, Part 1</i> .
141. Shakespeare coined an amazing number of expressions now used in everyday English: the devil incarnate, a laughing stock, dead as a door-nail, the game is up, play fast and loose, tower of strength, and vanish into thin air.
142. Shakespeare had a vast array of insults that are scattered throughout his work: Thou tottering fat-kidneyed dewberry!; Your bum is the greatest thing about you; Thou yeasty hasty-witted codpiece!; Thou jarring clapper-clawed lewdster! One of his most famous insults, used in <i>Hamlet</i> , is “Get thee to a nunnery,” which meant to get yourself to a brothel.
143. Shakespeare has been adapted into many different cultures. In 2004 the musical “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” by the Seoul Performing Arts Company adapted the Shakespeare play by the same name. The plot takes place in a world of Korean fairies such as Kyunwoo (herding boy) and Jiknyo (weaving girl) in ancient times in Korea.
144. Shakespeare refers to only one of the famous musicians of Shakespeare's time by name, the lutenist John Dowland (1562-1626) in his collection of poems called <i>The Passionate Pilgrim</i> . Shakespeare 's works are full of musical references that show the Bard’s thorough knowledge of contemporary music. It is known that music and theatre during Shakespeare's time were closely linked because there was music before the plays, at intermezzos and, very probably during the plays themselves.
145. Until the resettlement in 1656, Britain was officially bereft of Jewish people. But in actual terms, clusters of Jewish New Christians from Portugal and Holland, primarily merchants and doctors but adventurers and drifters as well, continued living there. Among them was a New Christian named Rodrigo Lopez, a physician who inspired William Shakespeare’s Shylock in <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> .
146. Shakespeare's presence in India, the world's largest democracy, is older and more complex than in any other country outside the West. Shakespearean performances by English acting troupes in Mumbai (Bombay) date from 1770. In Kolkata (Calcutta), then the capital of British India, the earliest recorded performance is of <i>Othello</i> at the Calcutta Theatre in the Christmas season of 1780. Over the next eight years, the same venue saw <i>Hamlet</i> , <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , <i>Richard III</i> and <i>Henry I</i> .
147. The Indian National Library in Kolkata (Calcutta) made a count of Shakespeare translations and adaptations in Indian languages up to 1964. Out of 670 items in all, Bengali led with 128, followed by Marathi (97), Tamil (83), Hindi (70), Kannada (66) and Telugu (62). Few of these works are formal translations; instead they range

from brief prose re-tellings to very free adaptations.
148. Though colonial English administrators expected the use of Shakespeare to create a new race of Englishmen in India, in practice Shakespeare was read and interpreted in a variety of ways. Rather than reading his plays as evidence of the superiority of English culture, anti-colonial Indians quoted them in support of their right to freedom and equality.
149. At an international conference on Shakespeare held at Delhi University it was revealed that about 300 degree colleges under Delhi University offer English honours courses of which Shakespeare constitutes 60 percent of the syllabus.
150. Thomas Carlyle, the influential Victorian essayist and satirist, in a well-known passage, insisted that England would have to give up India before Shakespeare. What keeps the nation together is literature, and in particular, Shakespeare: "Here, I say, is an English King, whom no time or chance, Parliament or combination of Parliaments, can dethrone! This King Shakespeare, does he not shine, in crowned sovereignty, over us all, as the noblest, grandest, yet strongest of rallying-signs" (<i>On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and the Heroic in History</i>).
151. Shakespeare's dramatic work occupies a unique position in India. Both as a colonial text that the British imported to India as a tool to illustrate proper 'moral' behavior to their Indian subjects and as a marker of an Indian identity characterized by hybridity, subversion, and negotiation.
152. Shakespeare was introduced to Indian schooling in the early 1800s as part of English literary studies used to colonize India. Many Indian colleges staged at least one Shakespeare play a year. Nineteenth century Indian productions of Shakespeare closely imitated Victorian interpretations.
153. An estimate from a Broadway season in the 1980s claimed that if Shakespeare were alive he would be entitled to nearly \$25,000 (US) a week just for the performances of <i>Othello</i> .
154. Each year, the city of Venice receives thousands of letters from around the world addressed to Juliet and Romeo.
155. Masuccio Salernitano's <i>Il Novellino</i> (1476) is the earliest known version of the Romeo and Juliet story that involves a secret marriage by a friar, a family feud, exile, and even sleeping potions between the two Italian Renaissance lovers Mariotto and Giannozza of Siena.
156. Shakespeare's influence in current India is still undeniable after the release of the film <i>Bollywood/Hollywood</i> (2002) by renowned Indo-Canadian director, Deepa Mehta, which starred Dina Pathak as Grandma-ji, the protagonist's grandmother who spouts nothing but famous Shakespearean quotes.
157. The Shakespeare nickel-copper-precious metal deposit is the site of a mining project that began exploration in 2005 at their location 70 kilometers west of Sudbury, Ontario, Canada.
158. Interestingly, suicide claims the lives of an unlucky thirteen people in Shakespeare's plays, five of those occurring in <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> , and the two most famous occurring in <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> .
159. <i>Romeo Must Die</i> (2000) was a fact-paced, kung-fu filled Jet Li film very loosely based on the <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> but based around two families' claims to real-estate on the Oakland-San Francisco waterfront.
160. The famous Irish-born Shakespearean actor and director Kenneth Branagh, has been in five Shakespearean film adaptations: <i>Henry V</i> (1989), <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> (1993), <i>Othello</i> (1995), <i>Hamlet</i> (1996), and <i>Love's Labour's Lost</i> (2000).
161. Actor Joseph Fiennes played William Shakespeare in the 1998 classic <i>Shakespeare in Love</i> and then went on to play Bassanio from the <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> (2004) alongside Al Pacino and Jeremy Irons.
162. The Internet Movie Database includes an incredible 58 adaptations of <i>Hamlet</i> dating back over 99 years to a French, silent, black and white production directed by Georges Méliès in 1907.
163. Commonly cited as source text for Shakespeare's <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , Arthur Brooke's 1562 story called <i>The Tragical History of Romeus and Juliet</i> is in fact not an original itself, but a translation of <i>Giuletta e Romeo</i> by Matteo Bandello, an Italian novelist. Bandello's Romeo and Juliet story was also a translation of Luigi da Porto's story by the same name (published 1530) that can be credited for the story's modern form.
164. <i>Le Nouvelle del Bandello</i> (1554) is a French translation by Pierre Boistreau of Matteo Bandello's Romeo and Juliet story. Boistreau's version was drastically altered by the French cultural elements he tried to work into the story.
165. Some evidence exists that attributes the lost play <i>Cardenio</i> to Shakespeare and John Fletcher, which was performed by the King's Men in 1613. The play is likely to have been based on the newly translated <i>Don Quixote</i> .
166. A famous quote from Shakespeare's <i>Henry V</i> contains the phrases "Band of brothers" which became the title of a World War II TV-miniseries co-produced by Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg in 2003.
167. In 1890, American Eugene Schieffelin wanted to hear the songs of Shakespeare's birds in the New World so he imported one hundred starling from England and released them into the skies of New York City. Since then, the European Starling has become one of the most numerous birds in North America. Its successful spread is

believed to have come at the expense of many native birds that compete with the starlings for nest holes.
168. In Shakespeare's London the streets were filled with wounded veterans from the war in Ireland, who were often found begging outside the theatres and other less respectable establishments.
169. Shakespeare's acting residence during the winter months was the Blackfriars Monastery, which had not been functioning as a monastery since the reign of Henry VIII. The internal space of the theatre measured an intimate 46' by 66' and was one of the first places Shakespeare's company made use of lighting effects and music.
170. Eleven of Shakespeare's play titles directly involve the word King and if you include <i>Julius Caesar</i> , <i>Hamlet</i> , <i>Titus Andronicus</i> , <i>Macbeth</i> , <i>Coriolanus</i> , <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> , <i>Pericles</i> , <i>Cymbeline</i> and <i>The Winter's Tale</i> that makes 20 out of 37 dealing with the monarchy.
171. The earliest permanently housed commercial theatres were established in London while Shakespeare was still a boy.
172. Early modern theatre entrepreneurs were either owners or managers like James Burbage and Phillip Henslowe or shareholders in repertory companies like John Heminge and Henry Condell. The most successful, William Shakespeare and Richard and Cuthbert Burbage were both.
173. In 1616, the Native American Princess Pocahontas (Matoaka) visited England, and she is rumoured to have attended one of the last performances of Shakespeare's play <i>The Tempest</i> .
174. During Shakespeare's time the lute, virginal, viola, recorder, bagpipe and the fiddle were the most popular instruments. A common form of entertainment in the countryside was the ringing of church bells. In the major towns, official musicians, better known as Waits, gave free public concerts. Wealthy people hired musicians to play during dinner.
175. In Shakespeare's time the sports most popular among the commoners were football and hurling. Football was called "a friendly game of fight" and was much rougher than it is today, with all sorts of injuries ranging from minor to fatal. There were no limits to the number of players and no lines.
176. Hurling, which was played in two different versions, was as dangerous as football. There were fifteen to thirty players per side, and the object of the game was to pick up the ball and run it through the goal, passing the ball to teammates if tackled. This game was a forerunner of modern rugby.
177. Shakespeare did not always work alone. <i>The Two Noble Kinsmen</i> is a play collaboratively written in 1613 by John Fletcher and Shakespeare. The play was not included in the First Folio of Shakespeare's works in 1623, but few readers doubt Shakespeare's hand in it. The specific authorship of the play's five acts is generally taken to be Shakespeare for Acts I, IV and V, and Fletcher for Acts II and III. This play is a romantic tragicomedy adapted from the great Middle English writer Geoffrey Chaucer's "The Knight's Tale."
178. Both Shakespeare and his contemporary Cervantes appear to have died on the same day in the same year, April 23, 1616. Although it's technically true that Shakespeare and Cervantes died on the same day, they didn't really die on the same day! That's because of a calendar mix-up involving Leap Days, which pushed the calendar ahead about 11 minutes a year. Although Pope Gregory corrected this in 1582, England and its colonies didn't sign on to the new schedule until 1752. So in 1616, the English calendar was about 10 days ahead of the rest of Europe (including Spain, where Cervantes lived). As a result, although Shakespeare and Cervantes both died on April 23 in their own countries, according to the Gregorian calendar, Shakespeare died about 10 days after Cervantes, on May 3, 1616!
179. Words that have the same or similar meaning but are spelled differently are known as synonyms. In Shakespeare's time, for example, "households" had the same meaning as the word "family."
180. In Poland, as elsewhere, Shakespeare has become a way to repackage and market products. One of the first attempts to use Shakespeare in promotional material appeared in Poland in 1996. In an "Idea" cellular phone company commercial, a young energetic man talks with his friend on the phone. To prove the need to purchase a cellular phone, he tells his friend of a missed opportunity to play Hamlet: Daniel [Olchbryski, a famous Polish dramatic actor who successfully acted that role in a cult staging of the play] became sick. There was no way to contact you, and a substitute was required."
181. The great American nineteenth century promoter P. T. Barnum has been called the "Shakespeare of advertising."
182. A 2003 television commercial selling Nextel cellular phones does a thirty-second re-enactment of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> . Amazingly the commercial does not show how cellular phones might have saved Romeo and Juliet from their senseless deaths!
183. When the BBC first started broadcasting a limited television service in 1936, Shakespeare was often used to give the new medium a veneer of respectability and to reflect the perceived tastes of those wealthy enough to afford television sets. Between 1937 and 1939, George More O'Ferrall oversaw numerous transmissions, mostly sourced from current stage productions. Since they were live transmissions shown some two decades before the invention of videotape, none of them survived, and they came to an end when the BBC ceased television

broadcasts with the onset of war in 1939.
184. British TV has given surprisingly little thought to modern updates of Shakespeare plays. Penny Woolcock's <i>Macbeth on the Estate</i> (1997), relocated the play to a contemporary Birmingham housing estate, and Tim Supple's <i>Twelfth Night</i> (2003) turned its protagonists into present-day asylum seekers, but each retained Shakespeare's original text. By contrast, <i>Heil Caesar</i> (1973), a restaging of <i>Julius Caesar</i> within a present-day dictatorship and <i>Othello</i> (2001), about the London Metropolitan Police's first black head, were given new modern dialogue by John Bowen and Andrew Davies respectively.
185. The first Shakespeare film in any country was made in 1899, a simple photographic record of a small part of Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree's stage production of <i>King John</i> .
186. Adrian Sevin created a French translation of Masuccio Salernitano's Romeo and Juliet story in <i>Halquadrinch and Burglipha</i> (1542).
187. In England, there have been a number of modern film updates or contemporary stories clearly inspired by Shakespearean themes. <i>Othello</i> inspired the Venetian melodrama <i>Carnival</i> (1921, remade 1931), the romantic comedy <i>Men Are Not Gods</i> (1936) and <i>All Night Long</i> (1961), set amongst the London jazz scene. Gangsters feature in <i>Joe Macbeth</i> (1955) and <i>My Kingdom</i> (2002, based on <i>King Lear</i>), while the second big-screen <i>As You Like It</i> (1992) transplanted the play to a run-down London housing estate.
188. A working definition of tragedy from Shakespeare's own time is that provided in 1598 by the translator John Florio: "a lofty kind of poetry and representing personages of great state and matters of much trouble, a great broil or stir: it beginneth prosperously and endeth unfortunately or sometimes doubtfully, and is contrary to comedy."
189. Amazingly, a number of Shakespeare adaptations were made during the silent film era, before movies had sound in them. The very first British Shakespeare film, <i>King John</i> (1899) consisted of abbreviated treatments of individual scenes, shot from a fixed camera position and often derived from then-current stage productions.
190. Pioneering British animator Anson Dyer (who was active from the First World War to the 1950s) made a number of satirical Shakespeare cut-out animations from 1919-20, including ' <i>Amlet</i> , <i>Oh'phelia</i> , <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , <i>Othello</i> , <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> and <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> . <i>Oh'phelia</i> tells the story of vegetable seller Oh'phelia and her tempestuous relationship with her sweetheart 'Amlet.
191. During China's "cultural revolution" (1969-76) Shakespeare was proscribed (forbidden). The cultural revolution was a struggle for power within the Communist Party of China, which grew to include large sections of Chinese society and eventually brought the People's Republic of China to the brink of civil war. It was launched by the Chairman of the Communist Party of China Mao Zedong on May 16, 1966.
192. Shakespeare had extensive and profound influences on Chinese dramas. His name first came to China with the missionaries in the mid nineteenth century. Shakespeare's first work known to the Chinese was the translated edition of <i>Tales from Shakespeare</i> by Charles Lamb.
193. The Chinese versions of Shakespeare's works began with <i>Hamlet</i> by Tian Han in 1921. By the year 1949 there were up to 30 versions of the play.
194. The single most ambitious attempt at bringing Shakespeare to TV was the BBC Television Shakespeare project (1978-85). The idea of Cedric Messina, who had already produced several one-off Shakespeare broadcasts, these garnered mixed reactions, with many of the early productions being criticized both for bland interpretations and lacklustre production values. Messina's gamble paid off financially: thanks at least partially to the then-new medium of video, the entire project had broken even by 1982.
195. Yearly performance statistics in German theatres issued by periodicals such as <i>Theater Heute</i> show that, despite changes in taste, Shakespeare, rather than Goethe, Shiller or Brecht, is usually the most frequently performed playwright in any given season.
196. Shakespeare did not become the object of critical attention in Germany until 1741, when a translation of <i>Julius Caesar</i> was published, the first of his plays to appear complete in German translation.
197. It is unclear where or when Shakespeare picked up the French he so adeptly used in <i>Henry V</i> or how he came to read the Italian source that provided inspiration for <i>Othello</i> . We do not know if Shakespeare ever traveled outside England.
198. Although Shakespeare's professional career was centred in London, his wife and children remained in Stratford.
199. After the plague had swept London, Shakespeare stayed with the Chamberlain's (later King's) Men for the rest of his career as an actor, playwright, and administrator. Shakespeare's enjoyed the most stable relationship (with a single company) of any prominent playwright of his time.
200. Elizabethan actors shouldered a lot of responsibility and pressure because oftentimes the success of a play depended on their abilities. They had to be talented, hard working, and versatile. Above all they had to have excellent memories because they were required to memorize and completely rehearse most plays in less than

two weeks.
201. None of Shakespeare's plays printed during his lifetime still survive in even a fragment of his own handwriting; the only literary manuscript plausibly ascribed to him is a section of <i>Sir Thomas More</i> , a play not printed until the nineteenth century.
202. About half of Shakespeare's plays were printed singly during his lifetime, almost all of them in the flimsy, paperback format of a quarto—a book made from sheets of paper that were folded twice, and that normally cost sixpence.
203. <i>Ubu Roi</i> , an adaptation of Shakespeare's <i>Macbeth</i> , opened on December 11, 1896 at the Theatre de l'Oeuvre in Paris but came to a quick end as the audience rioted, deeming it too offensive and scandalous.
204. There is evidence to suggest that Elizabethan actors trained their voices in order to reach a higher pitch for speaking and singing—so the difference between boys' voices and adults might have been much less noticeable in Shakespeare's time.
205. Unlike actors and actresses in modern movies, the young lovers in <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> during Shakespeare's time would have avoided physical contact and would instead have tried to express the intensity of their feelings through their words.
206. Charles Lamb (1775-1834) was an English essayist well known for the children's book <i>Tales from Shakespeare</i> , an abridged and heavily censored retelling of Shakespeare's plays that he co-wrote with his sister, Mary Lamb (1764-1847). In the Preface to the <i>Tales</i> , the Lambs say that "because boys being generally permitted the use of their fathers' libraries at a much earlier age than girls are, they frequently have the best scenes of Shakespeare by heart, before their sisters are permitted to look into this manly book." Thus, they argue one of their reasons for their retelling was to make Shakespeare available to "young ladies."
207. Hank Rogerson and Jilann Spitzmiller's <i>Shakespeare Behind Bars</i> (US, 2005), examines a theater group inside a Kentucky state prison as a group of inmates prepare a production of <i>The Tempest</i> and use it to reflect on their own lives, crimes, and captivity. The film closed the 2006 Human Rights Watch International Film Festival at San Francisco's Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.
208. <i>Ephesiaca</i> by Xenophon of Ephesus is a third-century AD text that was possibly a source of Shakespeare's <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> . The story includes separated lovers, a sleeping potion to reunite the lovers, and a tragic ending that never sees the lovers reunited.