Helping your children choose books they will love

I reading

Lovereading4kids.co.uk is a book website created for parents and children to make choosing books easy and fun

Opening extract from

Shakespeare: A Three Dimensional Expanding Pocket Guide

Written by

Nina Cosford

Published by

Walker Books Ltd

All Text is Copyright © of the Author and/or Illustrator

Please print off and read at your leisure.

Lovereading4kids.co.uk

SHAKESPEARE

SHAKESPEARE is the world's greatest playwright, a man whose influence is still powerfully felt today. Very little is known about the Bard's life, but we do know he was born in 1564 in the small Warwickshire town of Stratford-upon-Avon, before becoming an actor in London and writing his first play at around the age of 25. He died in 1616, aged 52, leaving a legacy of 38 plays, 154 sonnets and 2 longer poems, and his works are as highly regarded today as they were when they were first performed. As Ben Jonson said in the preface to Shakespeare's *First Folio* of plays, "He was not of an age, but for all time!"



Copyright © [first year of publication] Individual author and/or Walker Books Ltd. All rights reserved.

SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHPLACE

Shakespeare was born in this large half-timbered house on Henley Street in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1564. His father, John, was a glove-maker and the house also served as his workshop. His mother, Mary, was the daughter of a wealthy gentleman-farmer. Shakespeare was the third of eight children and John and Mary's first son. He lived here until his mid-twenties, spending all his childhood and the first five years of married life with Anne Hathaway in his family's home.

MARY ARDEN'S FARM

Shakespeare's mother, Mary Arden, grew up in this delightful farmhouse in Wilmcote and the young William would have come to visit his grandparents here in the 1570s. Today it is preserved as a working Tudor farm, and it is possible to see many crafts and skills from Shakespeare's day, including threshing and bread-making.

