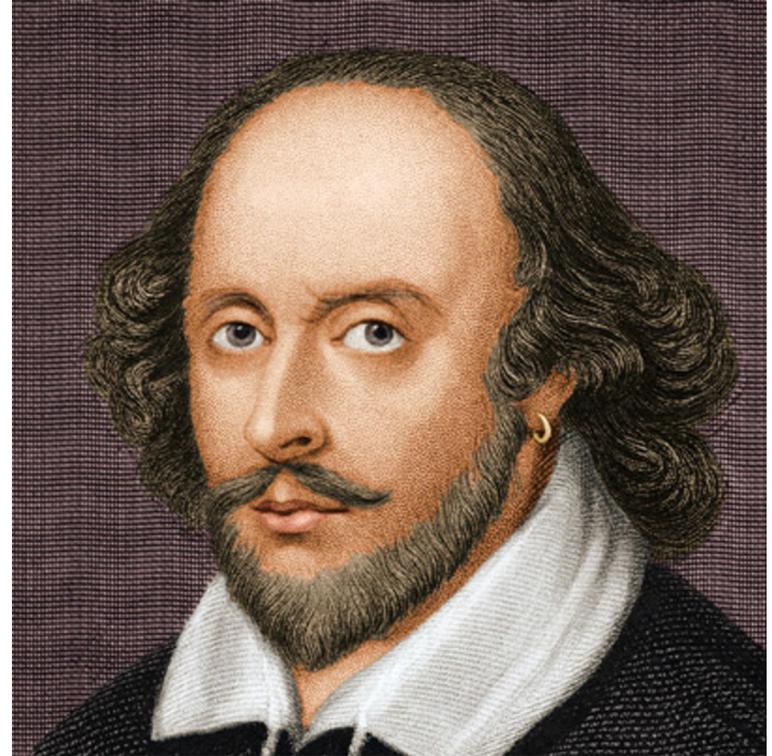


# Meet William Shakespeare

- Most influential literary figure EVER
- 16th/17th century, England
- **1564 - 1616**
- Wrote 37 hugely popular plays
  - Histories, Tragedies, Comedies
  - Plays written in 5 Acts
- Involved in building the **Globe Theater** in London - very popular and innovative
- Poet, playwright, wordsmith - invented countless words that are a part of our language today



# Romeo & Juliet is a TRAGEDY

A **tragedy** is a drama that results in a catastrophe - most often death - for the main characters.

Terminology:

- **Tragic Hero:** The protagonist; usually fails or dies because of a character flaw or a cruel twist of fate.
- **Soliloquy:** A speech given by a character alone; exposes a character's thoughts and inner feelings to the audience
- **Monologue:** A speech given by a character either to another character or in the presence of other characters
- **Aside:** A character's remark that others on stage are not meant to hear; reveals the character's private thoughts

# Elizabethan Era

- **Queen Elizabeth I**
- **Queen of England:**  
**1558 - 1603**
- English Renaissance: Love of language and the arts of theater and poetry flourished during this time



# Shakespearean Language

- **Written as plays** - originally intended to be viewed and listened to, rather than read
- Written in **iambic pentameter**
- Lots of **figurative language, wordplay, scrambled sentences** - Shakespeare was a genius with language
- Use the notes in the margins of the textbook to help define unfamiliar words, but remember, we do not need to understand the definition of every single word to understand the play, its characters, its themes, etc.

# Prose vs. Rhymed Verse (poetry)

**Prose** - Ordinary speech/writing, like you'd see in a novel

**Rhymed Verse** - Rhyming lines of iambic pentameter:

Love looks not with the eyes, but with the **mind (a)**

And therefore is winged Cupid painted **blind (a)**

Nor hath love's mind of any judgment **taste (b)**

Wings, and no eyes, figure unheedy **haste (b)**

**Blank Verse** - Unrhymed lines of iambic pentameter

# Shakespeare's Globe Theater



# The Actors

- Professional theater companies/troupes with hired actors
- **The Lord Chamberlain's Men (later the King's Men) was Shakespeare's troupe**
- **All male casts** - male actors would play female parts

