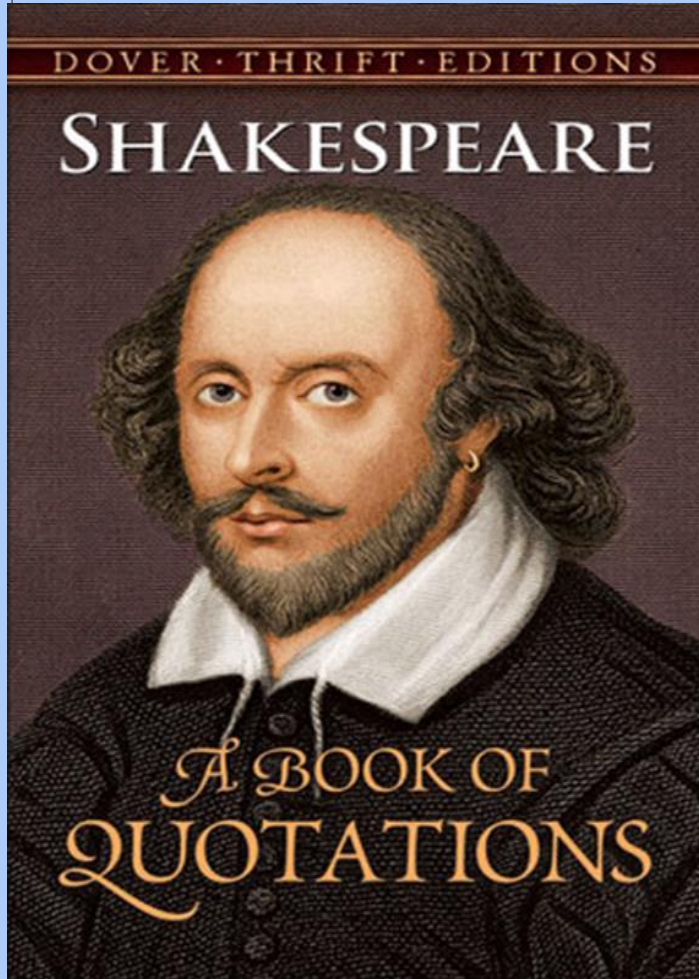




DRAMA, POETRY & PROSE

Shakespeare, Spenser, Sidney & Bacon

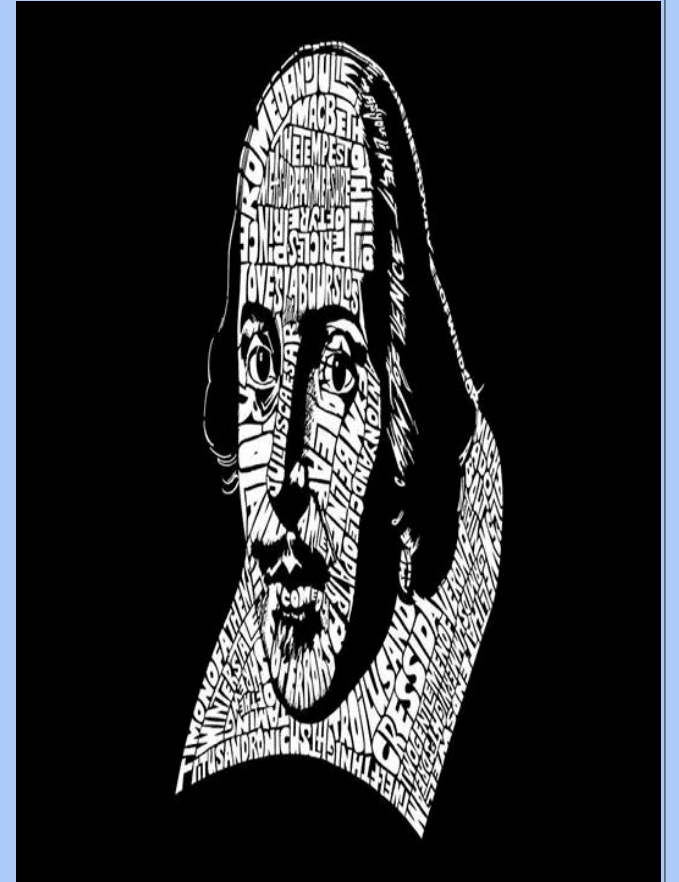
W. Shakespeare (1564-1616)



- ✓ An Actor, Dramatist, Poet – a representative of Elizabethan Age
- ✓ Born in 1564, Stratford-on-Avon (River) – called as “**Bard of Avon**”
- ✓ Educated at local Grammar School, learnt **little Greek & Latin**
- ✓ **Married Anne Hathaway**, had a son, & 2 daughters
- ✓ Total **37 plays (one incomplete)** & a few Non-dramatic works
- ✓ Narrative poems : **Venus and Adonis** (1593)
Rape of Lucrece (1594)- dedicated to Earl of Southampton (Patron)
Sonnets (1609) – **Total -154** (126 – to Mr W.H, 28 – to Dark Lady)
- ❖ Shak.an Sonnet form : **3 Quatrains & a Couplet** (abab cdcd efef gg)
- ❖ **Subject** : disastrous love affair & broken friendship for his patron -
finest lyrical poetry – **figures of speech, imagery, symbols used**
- ❖ **England’s National Poet**, patronized by Queen Elizabeth
- ❖ Died on April 23, 1616 (retired to hometown)

Shak's Journey to London

- In 1587, moved to London to **find his fortune** (after his early marriage)
- Started as an Actor, later revised Old plays, then emerged as a Dramatist
- Next 20 years in London – with fame & wealth, enjoyed royal patronages
- A **Shareholder of 2 Theatres** – The Globe Theatre & The Black Friars
- Retired from London to Stratford, in 1608 to live in peace
- **Practical man of affairs**, not simply a genius by birth, **but by hard work**
- Combined creative **imagination with common sense** : reason for his fame
- Brought **English Drama to perfection** – Mystery, Miracle, Morality Plays
- His dramatic **Career divided into 4 Periods** – advancement over the other



Dramatic Career – 4 periods

❖ First Period (1588 -93) – Experimental Stage

- Learning his art (fundamentals) **as an apprentice**, “in the workshop”
- Plays – immature in theme, treatment & characterization
- Works consists of **youthful comedies & tragedies** – Romeo and Juliet
- **Comedies** – *Love’s Labour’s Lost, Two Gentlemen of Verona, Comedy of Errors*
- **Historical plays** – *Richard II, Richard III & King John*
- **Traits** : Excessive imagination, immature & affected style, weak characterization

❖ Second Period (1594 - 1600) – Development Stage

- Found himself more of **an adept in drama construction** – “in the world”
- Acquired experience of world & mastery over his craft – matured plays
- Wrote with full confidence & sureness of touch – original & independent works
- **Sparkling Comedies** – *Midsummer..., Much Ado..., Twelfth Night, As you like It...*
- Five **Historical plays** – *Henry IV (Part I & II), Henry V*
- **Traits** : Better Plot construct, finer characterization & smooth flow of verse



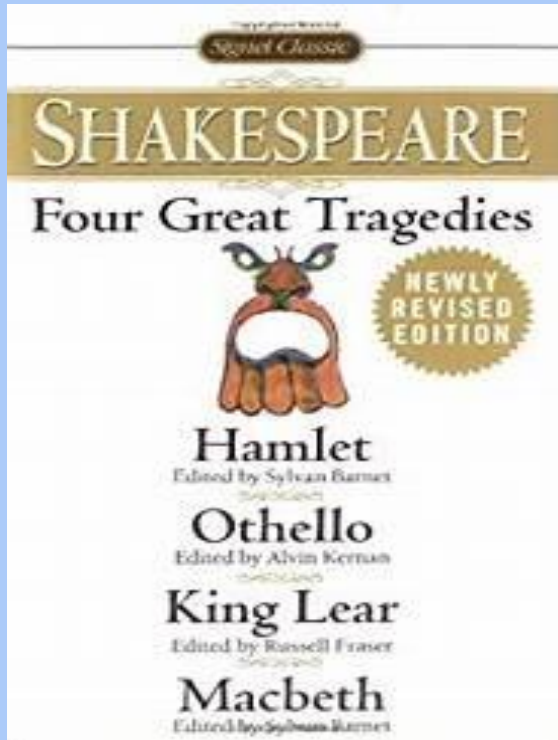
Period 3 & 4 - progressive stages

❖ Third Period – Tragic gloom & depression stage

- On the heights of his dramatic career – greater output
- **Four great tragedies** – *Hamlet, King Lear, Othello & Macbeth*
- Great **Roman plays** – *Antony & Cleopatra*
- **Comedies** – *All's Well that Ends Well, Measure for Measure* (bitter & cynical)
- Depression, frustration in love, Treachery of trusted friend, death of a relative – seems to have cast a **shadow of sorrow** over him – **gloom, bitterness/ pessimistic**
- **Traits** – interest in mixed char, **women** – not witty & versatile, **verse** – vehement imagery & broken sentences – **reflection of personal internal anguish**

❖ Fourth Period – On the heights of glory

- **Serenity & calmness of mind** revealed in this stage – darkness & tragic feel over
- Wrote with perfect **ease, liberty & individuality** – no longer followed conventions
- **Works** – *Pericles, Cymbeline, The Winter's Tale, The Tempest, Henry VIII*
- **Traits** – **Theme of reconciliation**, mature & profound thought, ambiguous style





The Man of Eminence

- **Ben Jonson** – “He was not of an age, **but of all times**;
Nature herself was proud of his designs! ”
- **John Dryden** – “ He was the man , who of **all modern and perhaps ancient poets**, had the largest and the most comprehensive soul”
- **Matthew Arnold** – “Others abide our question. Thou art free,
We ask and ask – thou smilest and art still,
Out-topping knowledge”
- **John Milton** – “Thou in our wonder and astonishment,
Hast built thyself a live-long monument,....
That **Kings for such a Tomb would wish to die**”
- **Coleridge** – “The greatest genius that perhaps human nature has yet produced, our **myriad-minded Shakespeare**”

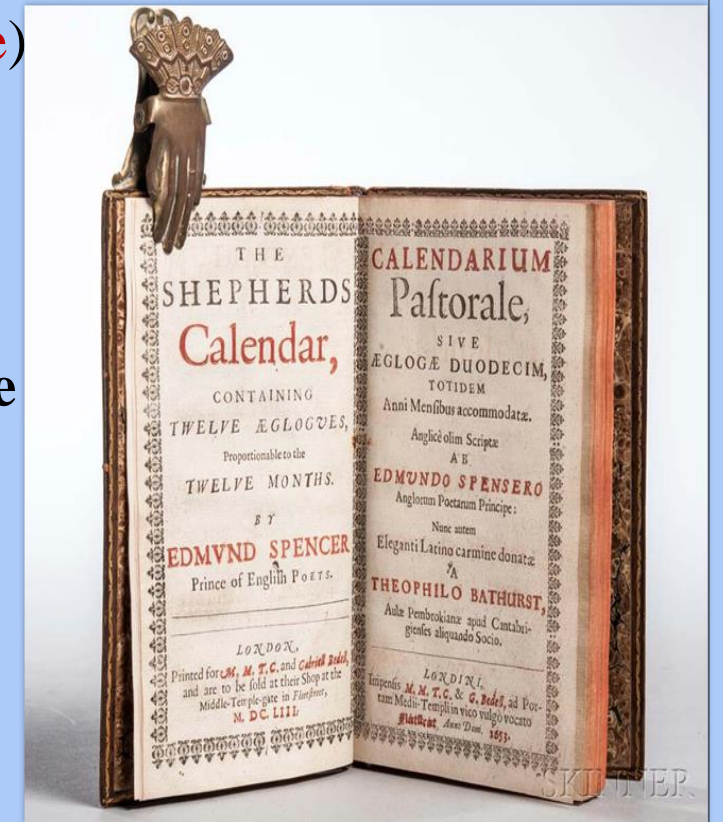
Spenser - Master of Eliz.an Poetry

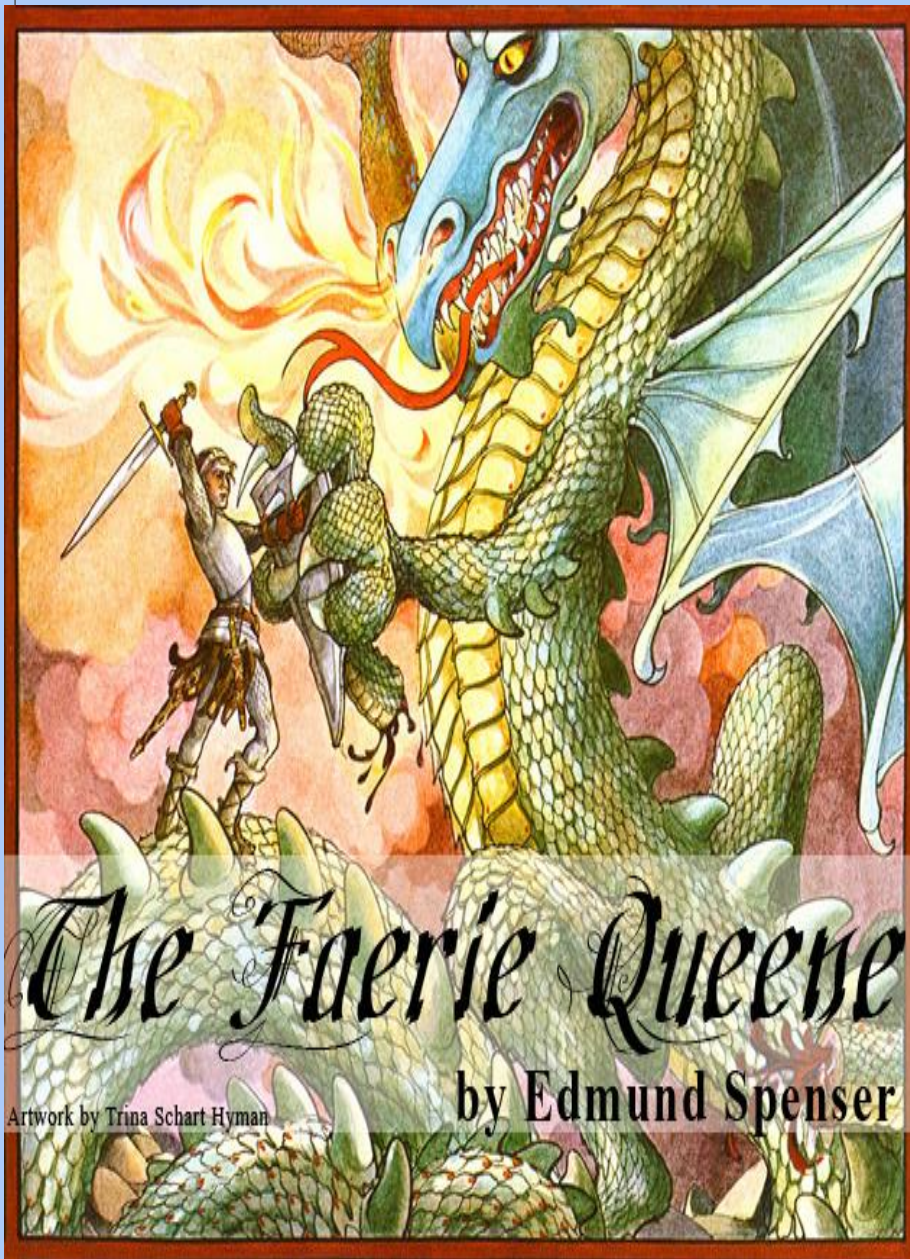
- ❖ **First Major English Poet after Geoffrey Chaucer**
- ❖ Known as the “**True Child of Renaissance**”
- ❖ Lived between 1552 -1599, London, England
- ❖ Education : @ Pembroke College, Cambridge
- ❖ Influenced by Gabriel Harvey, an Oxford Scholar
- ❖ Intimate friends - **Sir Philip Sidney, Sir Walter Raleigh**
- ❖ Married Twice, Second: **celebrated love, Elizabeth Boyle**
- ❖ Buried beside Chaucer in West minister Abbey @ 1599
- ❖ Charles Lamb : **The Poet’s Poet**, Dryden : **The Most Original Poet**, Campbell : **Ruban among poets**
- ❖ “The Child of Ren. & Ref.” – works combine spirit of both



Literary Works : Non-dramatic Poet

- I poetic work – **The Shepherd's Calendar** (1579) : dedicated to **Sidney**
 - **Pastoral in form** : conventional shepherd imagery used;
 - Divided into **12 eclogues (each month)**; **Theme**: unlucky love (Rosalind)
- **Master piece** : **The Faerie Queen** (1599) : an Epic poem (**Incomplete**)
- **Colin Clouts Come Home Again** : a tribute to **Sir Walter Raleigh**
- **Four Hymns** (1596) : devoted to his friend **Sir Walter Raleigh**
- **Astrophel** (1586) : **Pastoral Elegy** on death of **Sidney** (friend)
- **Amoretti** : series of 88 sonnets – progress of love for **Elizabeth Boyle**
- **Epithalamion** (1595) : “**the noblest wedding hymn in the lang**”
- **Prothalamion** : marriage of the 2 daughters of **Earl of Worcester**
- **A View of the Present State of Ireland** : **a Chief prose work**
- **Mother Hubbard's Tale** : Satire on Society, **longest poem**





The Faerie Queene – Structure of the Epic

- One of longest & greatest English poem, to **honour Eliz I**
- **Total - 6 books**, 3 pub.1590, after 6 years other 3 pub 1596
- A fragment, **originally planned 12 books (incomplete)**
- Inspired & modelled on the **Italian Epics**
- Each book - an Independent & self- contained ; One Connecting link : **King Arthur** (legendary hero of British)
- Queen plans for her **annual feast** for 12 successive days, A knight undertakes an adventure everyday – **Subject matter**
- **12 Knights stand for 12 virtues** of Aristotle Philosophy :
Book I – Holiness, II – Temperance, III – Chastity, IV – Friendship, V - Justice, VI – Courtesy
- **Defect** : Extremely artificial, Spenser – languid story teller with little dramatic power

Sir Philip Sidney (1554-1586)

- Eldest son of Sir Henry Sidney (Lord Deputy of Ireland), nephew of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester.
- 1568-71: Enters Christ Church, Oxford, but does not get a degree.
- 1575: Back to England after travelling in Europe.
- Learnt Latin, French and Italian



Sir Philip Sidney

- ❖ A Courtier, Soldier, Poet, Literary Critic
- ❖ An Ideal English Man : as “**the flower of Chivalry**”
- ❖ Strong influence on **Edmund Spenser** – dedicated “The shepherd’s Calendar”
- ❖ **Important Works:**
 - Arcadia** (Prose Romance)- Adventure of 2
 - An Apologie for Poetrie** (1595) - A Defence
 - Astrophel and Stella** – 168 Sonnets on courtly love
- ❖ Married Francis Walsingham in 1583
- ❖ Nothing published during his life time

Francis Bacon-Prose

Francis Bacon

- Sir Francis Bacon was an English lawyer, statesman, essayist(散文家), historian, intellectual reformer, philosopher, and champion of modern science. Early in his career he claimed “all knowledge as his province” (以知识为其领域) and afterwards dedicated himself to a wholesale revaluation and re-structuring of traditional learning.



- Principal Prose Master- **Francis Bacon** (1561 -1626)
- Rightly called as “**the Father of English Essays**”
- A man who had accurate observation of men & matters
- **Total 58 essays** – on political, moral, domestic & religious subjects – as grave & mature person on pulpit
- Wrote in both **Latin & English**; Latin works – most import
- Essays modelled on **French master, Montaigne**
- Publ. as “**Dispersed Meditations**” & “**Brief Sketches**”
- ‘**Epigrammatic**’ style - clear, simple, flexible; Short & crisp sentences/ aphoristic style of writing
- Similies, Metaphors & other devices used to enhance
- **Essays** - Of Truth, Of Marriage, Of Friendship, Of Ambition
- **Phil. Works** : Advancement of Learning, New Atlantis & Novum Organum
- Moral Philosopher, Political Thinker, Votary of Science & Medicine, a practical man of the world

TO SUM UP...

Old English Period – Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Norman Conquest, Christianity introduced
Anglo-Saxon Lit., Caedmon's Hymns, "Beowulf"

Middle English Period – Chaucer, Langland, John Gower, John Wycliff
"The Canterbury Tales", "Confessio Amantis", "The Bible"

Elizabethan Age / Shak.an Age – Early Drama : Mystery, Miracle, Morality Plays, Interludes
Renaissance, Reformation, Discoveries, Explorations, Patriotism

Shak.an Poets – Edmund Spenser's "Faerie Queene", Sir Philip Sidney, Shakespeare's Sonnets

Pre-Shak.an Dramatists – 7 University Wits, their influence on Shakespeare as a dramatist

Other Dramatists – Ben Jonson's "Comedy of Humours", Webster, Beaumont & Fletcher

Prose Writers – Francis Bacon's Essays, Sir Philip Sidney's "An Apology for Poetry"



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