

William Shakespeare Background Notes

pg. 313

1. What did Shakespeare's history plays & tragedies deal with?

2. What does Shakespeare's play Macbeth study?

pg. 314

3. Shakespeare is regarded as...

4. Where was Shakespeare born?

5. When was he baptized?

6. If Shakespeare was alive today, what would he be considered?

- did he come from a noble family with close ties to the English court?

pg. 315 7. Instead of going off to a university, what did Shakespeare do?

8. Which ruler supported the arts during this time period?

side bar / pg. 315

9. What is Shakespeare best known for?

- what are they?

- How many plays did he write?

pg. 316

10. How did Robert Greene (rival dramatist) refer to Shakespeare?

11. What was Lord Chamberlain's Men?

- What does "patron" mean in this context?

12. How did Shakespeare help this group of actors?

13. What was Shakespeare considered by 1950?

14. Because of his new found fame, what was Shakespeare able to do?

15. In 1603, the Lord Chamberlain's Men had its name changed to what?

16. After 1613, does he write any more plays?

17. When did Shakespeare die / where was he buried?

pg. 318

18. What did the Renaissance bring to England?

19. Where were the earliest public performances performed?

- where did the spectators watch?

20. What did Shakespeare call the globe?

pg. 319 21. Describe the Globe Theatre

22. Where did the poorer patrons sit?

23. What were the poorer patrons called?

24. Where were the wealthier patrons able to sit?

25. Actors were required to be able to do...

26. How did the audience let the actors know they disapproved?

27. What were actors called?

28. Why weren't women allowed to perform?

- who played the female roles?

29. Shakespeare was...

30. Who was the leading tragic actor in Shakespeare's company?

31. What happened to the globe in 1613?

1644? • what did this signify?

pg. 320 32. Describe the new Globe

33. Why does the new globe seat less people than the original theater?

pg. 321 Renaissance Drama

34. What did English drama focus on?

35. Two main categories of plays

36. How was comedy defined in Renaissance England?

37. Tragedy -

38. Shakespeare's other type of plays -