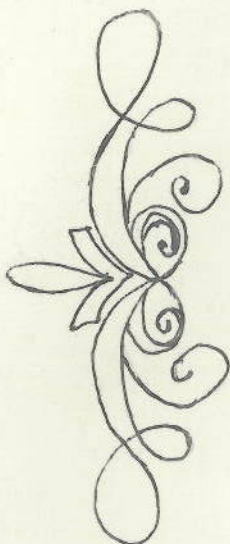
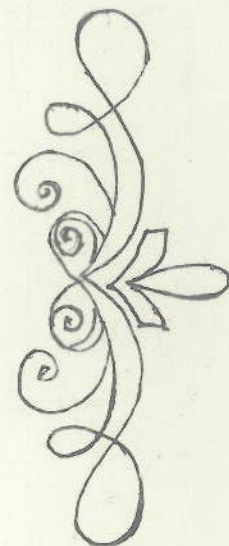


God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen:
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us:
God save the Queen.



O Lord, our God, arise,
Scatter her enemies,
And make them fall.
Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks,
On Thee our hopes we fix,
God save us all.



Thy choicest gifts in store,
On her be pleased to pour;
Long may she reign:
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
To sing with hearts and voice
God save the Queen!



William Shakespeare.

*"For I have sworn thee fair, and thought thee bright,
Who art as black as hell, as dark as night."*

An excerpt from the sonnet CXLVII

William Shakespeare. This is a man who rose to heavens of the English poetry and dramaturgy. He is renowned as a real genius and one of the greatest men ever. This Englishman is a person who enriched the world's culture. Furthermore, there is still a lack of precise information about his life.

Some say that Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in a family of an artisan and a glover. Unfortunately, nowadays, no one knows the exact date of his birth, but he was baptized on 26 April 1564. At the age of 18, he married Anne Hathaway and they had 3 children. Nevertheless, after children were born, William left his hometown and began theatrical career.

However, one should note that there are a lot of controversial versions about who Shakespeare really was. People say that just an ordinary man from Stratford could not get such brilliant education to write all these wonderful plays and sonnets. But as for me, there is no matter, who hides behind his name because as Shakespeare once said: "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet".

William Shakespeare made a significant contribution to the promotion of the world's literature. His works are masterpieces and their importance cannot be overemphasized. Shakespeare wrote about the eternal and constant. At "The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark" we can see the betrayal of closest people. At "Romeo and Juliet", readers can contemplate the problems of love and the bad blood. "Macbeth" shows us the destructive desire to get glory and power. Overall, Shakespeare, as the most demanded playwright of all time, set a high bar for the world writers. That's why William Shakespeare was and will always be the immortal bard.

What is more, "Shakespeare didn't immediately become the Shakespeare" as Samuil Marshak once said. During the life he wrote 37 plays and only 18 of them were published while he was alive. But later his name became a household word. Moreover, I think that Shakespeare predicted the future of his genius in his lines at the sonnet LV:

*"'Gainst death, and all-oblivious enmity
Shall you pace forth; your praise shall still find room
Even in the eyes of all posterity
That wear this world out to the ending doom".*

After all, I would like to say that despite the fact that Shakespeare died on 3 May 1616 in Stratford-upon-Avon his works are timeless. William Shakespeare is a person not only Great Britain can be proud of but the whole world as well.