



The Renaissance

BBC

ELEPHANTS ON A PLAIN

RELEASE DATE: 218 BC

Historical context

- 1509 Henry VIII becomes king (he had 6 wives)
- 1534 Henry becomes head of Church of England
- 1547 his son Edward VI becomes king
- 1553 Henry's daughter Mary I becomes queen
- 1558 Henry's daughter Elizabeth I becomes queen
- 1603 Elizabeth dies, king James I
- 1605 Gunpowder plot: attack on King and Parliament
- 1625 King Charles I
- 1648 King Charles deported, Britain becomes a Republic.

Gunpowder Plot (1605) - Guy Fawkes Day

Humanities In A Minute

Kings and Queens



Different way of looking at the world

- People started to see themselves as individuals instead of members of a certain community.
- Life is no longer just a preparation for the after-life; people explore and enjoy life as much as they can.
- People no longer simply accept what the church tells them but base their views on research.

Art and Literature

- Renaissance started in Italy; renewed interest in Roman and Greek culture
- Start of Tudor rule usually seen as starting point in England (1485)



Characteristics

- Imitation of form, style and metric systems from Roman and Greek cultures
- Beauty of form and sound become more important
- People sign their work; after all; they deserve credit for them
- More expression of personal feelings
- Religious drama replaced by secular drama



Poetry

English sonnets:

- 14 lines: three quatrains and a couplet
- Couplet contains a volta
- Strict rhyme scheme and iambic pentameter)
(da DUM da DUM da DUM da DUM da DUM)

Themes

- love for a lady adored by the author
- the passing of time, the idea that life will end

Sonnet 75 – Edmund Spenser (1552-1599)

(from Amoretti)

One day I wrote her name upon the strand,
but came the waves and washed it away:
again I wrote it with *a second hand*,
but came the *tide*, and made my *pains* his *prey*.
Vain man, said she, that doest *in vain* assay,
a mortal thing so to *immortalize*.
for I myself shall like to this decay,
and *eek* my name be *wiped out* likewise.
Not so, (*quoth I*) *let baser things devise*
to die in dust, but you shall live by fame:
my verse *your virtues rare* shall *eternize*,
and in the heavens write your glorious name.
Where whenas death shall all the world *subdue*,
our love shall live, and later life renew.

in een nieuwe poging
getij; inspanningen; prooi
dwaze; tevergeefs; proberen
sterfelijk; onsterfelijk maken
want ik zal op dezelfde manier in verval raken
ook; uitgevaagd
zei ik; laat lagere schepsels de bedoeling hebben om tot stof
weder te keren
jouw uitzonderlijke eigenschappen; vereeuwigen
terwijl; onderwerpen



Drama



Theatres:

- Very popular
- Made of wood
- Stage effects very dangerous (fire)



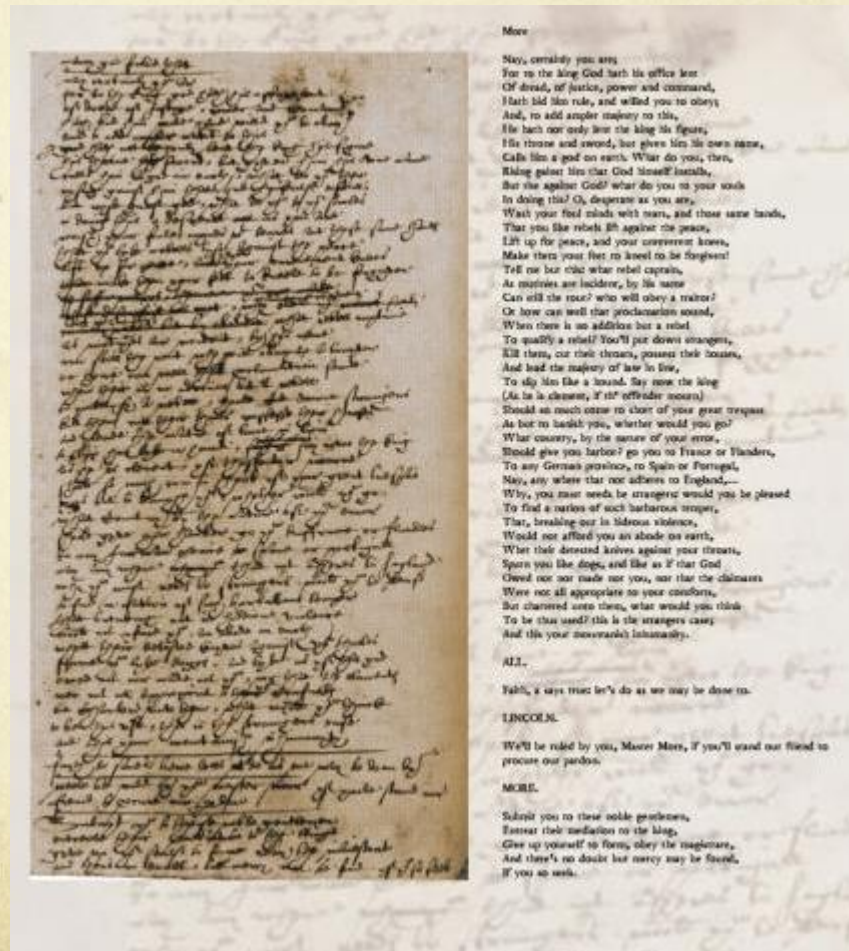
No women on stage!





Shakespeare's Work

- 37 plays
 - Tragedies
 - Comedies
 - Histories
- 154 sonnets
- 4 longer poems





History plays

Based on the lives of real English Kings

Comedies

- Language
- Love
- Complex plots
- Mistaken identities



Tragedies

- One central figure
- Element of hope
- Death to the protagonist



Religiously confusing

- Henry VIII breaks with Rome : start of Protestant Church
- Edward VI: Protestant king (1547-1553)
- Mary I: Roman Catholic
- Elizabeth I : Protestant
- James I : Protestant
- Charles I: Roman Catholic
- Charles II : Roman Catholic
- 1648: Republic led by strict Puritans
- 1660: King Charles II back : The Merry Monarch!