

### **The Renaissance**



# **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



# 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 afterlife; 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)

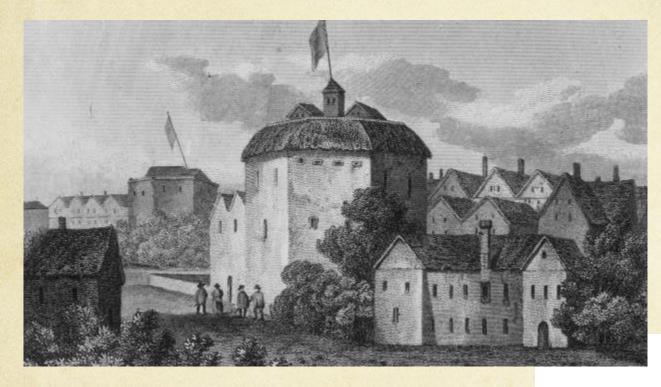
One day I wrote her name upon the strand, but came the waves and washed it away: again I wrote it with a second hand, but came the tide, and made my pains his prey. Vain man, said she, that doest in vain assay, a mortal thing so to immortalize. for I myself shall like to this decay, and eek my name be 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

O 37 plays Tragedies 0 Comedies **Histories** 

#### 154 sonnets

O 4 longer poems

Nav, certainly you area For 15 the king God tarh his office leter If dread, of justice, power and command, fath bid him rule, and willed you to obeys d, to add ampler mainty to this, hath nor only liver the also his figure. His throne and sword, but given him his own name, Calls lim a god on earth. What do yost, then, Ridne salaet him that God himself installs against God? what do you to your soul In doine this? O, desserate as you are, Wash your fool minds with rears, and those same hands, That you like rebets lift against the peace, Lift up for peace, and your premerent knews, Make stars your first to kneel to be foreivent Tell me but this what rebel captain, inles are lockdene, by his same Can still the rour? who will obey a malter? Or how can well that proclamation sound, When there is no addition but a rebel To quality a rebel? You'll put down strang All there, our their theorem, possess their house And lead the majerry of late in line, To slo him like a bound. Say more the king As he is clement, if the offender mound Potential an much ongoe up chost of your ereat t As bot m hanish you, whether would you en-What concerv, by the samey of your error, Boold give you harbor? go you to France or Handers To any German province, to Spain or Portugal, Nay, any where that not adheres to England, Why, you must needs be arrangend would you be pla To find a nurion of soci harbornes prove That, breaking our in hidrous violence, Would not afford you an abode on earth, When their detected knives against your throats, ipern you like dogs, and like as 2' that God level nor nor made nor you, nor that the chimann Were not all appropriate to upor comform, but chartered unto them, what would you think To be thus used? this is the smangers case; And this year measurable initiationity.

#### ALL.

Fabri, a says must ler's do as we may be done ma

#### LINCOLM.

We'll be roled by you, Master More, if you'll stand our friend to procure our pardos.

#### MORE.

fulnyit you to these oddle gestlemen. fattear their mediation to the blog, Give up yourself to form, obey the magint And three's no doubt has morey may be found, F you so wells.

STA Regati - Don - da

#### **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
- O Elizabeth I : Protestant
- O James I : Protestant
- Charles I: Roman Catholic
- O Charles II : Roman Catholic
- O 1648: Republic led by strict Puritans
- O 1660: King Charles II back : The Merry Monarch!