



William Shakespeare & the Globe

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From Hamlet to Romeo and Juliet to A Midsummer Night's Dream, Shakespeare's celebrated works have touched people around the world.

Aliki combines literature, history, biography, archaeology, and architecture in this richly detailed and meticulously researched introduction to Shakespeare's world-his life in Elizabethan times, the theater world, and the Globe, for which he wrote his plays. Then she brings history full circle to the present-day reconstruction of the Globe theater.

Ages 8+

William Shakespeare & the Globe Details

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Victoria says

Aliki does a great job writing and illustrating her book William Shakespeare & the Globe. The pictures are vivid, colorful, and look to have been made using various media types (e.g. paint, crayons, colored pencils, etc.). The table of contents is arranged in play format, starting Act One: Scene One with the life of Shakespeare, but the focus of the book seems less on the playwright himself and more on the history of the Globe Theater. Also, there isn't a bibliography or reference page to show where the author got her information. While the book provides a lovely illustrated history of theater in 16th century England, I feel like some pages have so much going on (e.g. p. 22-23) that it detracts from the story itself, which in turn makes the story line weaker. Also, I like the little quotes from Shakespeare throughout the book, especially how the quotes relate to the text on the same page. I wish the book had just been written about the Globe Theater because, then, maybe the author could have narrowed her focus to one topic instead of bouncing around like an old horse-and-buggy carriage. Overall, though, I feel like this is a great book for introducing students to Shakespeare and plays.

Charity Humfleet says

This book was written as a biography picture book for the play write William Shakespeare. The book describes some on Shakespeare famous plays and main characters. It also goes through the building of the Globe theater which is where many of Shakespeare's plays were performed. This biography picture book included well illustrated diagrams so the reader can really visualize the theater and the characters. This biographical picture book would be great for children because it is an exciting way to learn about history that would grab their attention. The front cover is also well illustrated and gives the reader an idea of what Shakespeare looked like and also that the book is going to cover the topics of the Globe Theater and the characters in his plays.

Kara says

Shakespeare, Plays, Acts, Facts

Olivia Lagore says

A wonderful book describing how Shakespeare's company worked, the men in the company, and Shakespeare's life as well as the eventual rebuilding of the Globe in London, this book could act as an excellent introduction to a first reading of Shakespeare for students, explaining how the plays were meant to be read, perhaps paired with a filmed staging of one of his plays, or, even better, a field trip to one. The illustrations were just as descriptive as the text, and the two worked together to get information across in an engaging way. For me personally, as someone who has been to the rebuilt Globe in London, the book brought a smile to my face.

Jacy says

curricular connection: interesting, pretty, informative

Gail says

I absolutely plan to use this text with my World Literature classes in future years. Reading the entire text is unlikely, but I would use significant portions to review (as students have studied Shakespeare during freshman year) the background of Elizabethan England and some information on Shakespeare himself. The format is also a review in itself, as it uses play terminology (aside, act, scene, etc.) to format different segments. The play quotations that are scattered throughout are also both relevant and fun! The beautiful illustrations and especially diagrams and maps would also be beneficial to show to my students. Students also tend to enjoy learning about the words and expressions coined by Shakespeare, so the list at the end of the book would definitely find a place in my lesson. The final note of "Not the End. THE BEGINNING." is a great way to lead students in to our study of Julius Caesar with portions of this book as an introduction!

Emma says

“All the world’s a stage, And All the men and women merely players: They have their exits and their enterances; And one man in his time plays many parts. As You Like It, II, 7

The words of William Shakespeare permeate the lives of English speakers around the world. Did you know he is credited with some 2000 words and expressions, such as, “good riddance” and “wild-goose chase”? But what of the man behind the words?! Aliko presents the story of Shakespeare (and the Globe) in a series of five acts. From Will’s birth until the Puritan’s closings of all the theatres in London to the rebirth of the Globe in the 20th century, readers can learn known facts about the life of the famous playwright, actor, poet, and gentleman. Aliko explains that Shakespeare’s life is somewhat of a mystery, and readers will enjoy discovering the tidbits of facts that do exist. Particularly enjoyable are the illustrations, sidebars, captions, and quotes. The book’s format lends itself to exploration and further studies of the life and world of Shakespeare.

Aby Vela says

With whimsical costumes, Elizabethan language, and historical phenomena, Shakespeare and the Globe brings life back to the past. Although there is not much information available on the mysterious William Shakespeare, this book gives you much detail of what they did know and what life was like back then. The illustrations are vivid with color and animation, making each page draw you into its action and activities. The animated people looked just as they do in the plays and movies we see with all their costumes and colors. This book is definitely meant for older readers. It has a lot of information, although very interesting, it can become overwhelming for a younger reader. This would be a wonderful book to read with your class to teach

about Shakespeare or Elizabethan times in history. As I love reading Shakespeare, I thoroughly enjoyed this biographical picture book.

Holly says

This book tells the history of William Shakespeare's life and the Globe playhouse which was built by he and his friends. It also tells about Sam Wanamaker, who rebuilt Shakespeare's Globe in modern-day London.

Personal Evaluation:

I love how the book is laid out in Acts and Scenes for the "chapters." It has excellent, not-well-known information that even adults would enjoy learning about. The language is simple, and there are lots of interesting pieces: Shakespearean quotes, his bibliography, and a timeline.

Memorable Literary Element:

In the back of the book is a chart with words & expressions which Shakespeare invented that are still used in the English language today. There are also many small bios about important people in Shakespeare's life that typically are never mentioned when studying Shakespeare: fellow actors and playwrights, his family, and Sam Wanamaker, who built the modern Globe.

Illustrations:

The illustrations are colorful and fun, suitable for children, and not too serious. I love the picture of the Globe filled with people for a performance, with the key that shows what each area was. The pictures of life in England during Shakespeare's time are so helpful for children to visualize a time that is unheard of to them.

Heather says

This was a wonderful introduction to Shakespeare. I felt like it gave them enough information without going too in-depth. It talked a bit about Will himself, as well as some of his contemporaries. It discussed the playhouse and social system of the time.

The book was written like a play, Act 1 Scene 2 and such and each page had a small quote from one of his plays. It also went on to describe Sam Wanamaker who started the project to rebuild the Globe in London.

Our favorite part was at the end where it showed a list of words and phrases that Shakespeare 'invented' like puke and Knock, Knock, Who's There? It also has a timeline of his life and plays.

For the third grade I thought this more than adequate coverage. We used this as a springboard to read some of his plays (written for children) and we're really enjoying those as well.

I think this book would be appropriate for K through 6th or 7th grade. You could possibly use it for older as well, but by that age they should be going a little more in-depth, like Bard of Avon by Diane Stanley and the cartoonish drawings might not be appealing to older kids.

Kennedy says

This was a fun book that made learning about Shakespeare far more interesting, especially for younger

children. This book describes the life and times of William Shakespeare including: what theatre was like at this time, what the arts in general were like, the patrons, etc. I loved the illustrations and how the book was divided into Acts and Scenes like a play would be. I found that really clever. This would be a good book to use in schools if the kids were learning about writers and didn't want to be forced to listen to or read boring history type books.

Tracy Holland says

A chronological look at the life of William Shakespeare and the time in which he lived, wrote, and prospered. This book gives a look into the elusive life of one of the greatest authors ever to put pen to paper. While Shakespeare is not favorite literature to read, I appreciate the impact that he has had on literature and theater.

Having been to London several times, and to many of the places cited in the book, it was interesting to read about the historical time, recognize the places and districts in London, learning a little more about its evolution. This is definitely a book to read when studying Shakespeare in school.

Amy says

My oldest liked this book, alot! :)

Charlene Olson odu says

The picture book William Shakespeare and the Globe gives a brief synopsis of the life of William Shakespeare. The book also explains the efforts of Sam Wannamaker to reconstruct the Globe Theater. Shakespeare was born in 1564 in Stratford upon Avon, England. He was educated at the local grammar school, and he married Anne Hathaway at the age of 18 even though Anne was eight years older. He and Anne had three children: Susanna and twins Hamnet and Judith. Shakespeare went to London where he was an actor and playwright. In the Elizabethan period, all of the actors were men, so the ladies parts were played by young men. Some of the plays written by Shakespeare were: As You Like It, Much Ado About Nothing, Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, and the Merchant of Venice. During Shakespeare's time, the London theaters were located south of the Thames River, and the theaters had thatched roofs that were open in the middle. Shakespeare's plays were performed by his company called the Lord Chamberlain's Men at a place called The Theater. When the owner of the land and the owner of the actual building got into an argument, the owner of the theater tore down the theater, took the timbers down, and rebuilt the theater on a different piece of land nearby and they called it the Globe Theater. The Globe Theater caught fire and was destroyed in 1613. A second Globe Theater was built on the site next year. William Shakespeare died in 1616 at the age of 52. In 1623, two of Shakespeare's contemporaries published the First Folio which contained 36 of Shakespeare's plays. The Globe Theater was closed by the Puritans in 1642, and it was pulled down two years later.

Sam Wannamaker decided to reconstruct the Globe Theater on the original site. He and his crew were able to find the original foundation of the Globe and they began reconstructing the building. Unfortunately, Sam died in 1993 before the reconstruction was finished. The reconstructed Globe Theater was opened in June 1997. It is the only building in London with a thatched roof since the Great Fire of 1666.

Dolly says

I enjoy reading Shakespeare and I love going to his plays. Our girls have been to one play, and I was impressed that they 'got' it so well. I really want to continue to expose them to the wonders of his works, but I don't want to overwhelm them by merely reading the plays aloud. So when I saw this book, I thought it was a great way to introduce them to his life and his impact on our language.

This book is primarily a biography of William Shakespeare's life, weaving snippets of his plays throughout. I loved that there are a couple of pages of words and expressions that have been incorporated into our everyday language, thanks to his literary contributions. And I really liked that the book was designed like a play, with different Acts and Scenes. The introduction of Sam Wanamaker and Theo Crosby's modern-day efforts to bring back the Globe to its original glory is fascinating.

Overall, I thought this was a well-written book. It has a lot of detail, but it isn't boring and we were able to read the entire book in one evening. The illustrations are a mixture of scenic panoramas, portraits and lots of individual characters and embellishments that attract the eye. They are liberally mixed throughout the text, so the narrative isn't overwhelming. We really enjoyed reading this book together.
