**Ms. McLeod**

**ELA B30**

**Introduction to Shakespeare**

**Why do we study Shakespeare?**

Shakespeare was one of the most influential writers in the English language (and in the world); he had a profound influence on the development of the English language:

* Before Shakespeare’s time, written English was, on the whole, not standardized. His works contributed significantly to the standardization of grammar, spelling, and vocabulary. Shakespeare introduced 1,700 original words into the language, many of which we still use (despite significant changes to the language since Shakespeare’s time). These words include: “lonely,” “frugal,” “dwindle,” and many more.
* In addition to all these words, many phrases that we use daily originated in Shakespeare’s work. When you talk about “breaking the ice” or having a “heart of gold,” or when you use any number of other phrases, you’re using Shakespeare’s language.
* Finally, Shakespeare had a profound impact on poetry and literature that has lasted centuries.

William Shakespeare’s World

Inquiry

Research William Shakespeare to find the answer to each of the following questions:

1. William Shakespeare was born on \_\_\_\_\_\_ in Stratford-upon-Avon.
2. William Shakespeare died on\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. He was married to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and they had three children.
4. Shakespeare’s son Hamnet\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_when he was eleven years old.
5. His oldest daughter was named\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and she was married to a doctor.
6. Mary Arden was Shakespeare’s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. Find ten interesting facts about Shakespeare and life in England during Shakespeare’s time, the Elizabethan era:

|  |
| --- |
| 1. |
| 2. |
| 3. |
| 4. |
| 5. |
| 6. |
| 7. |
| 8. |
| 9. |
| 10. |

1. Find a word or phrase introduced by Shakespeare.