

Famous British Writers

Pre-session webquest

Find the answers to these questions about *William Shakespeare*:

How many plays did he write?

What was “The Globe”?

Why did men often dress as women in his plays?

What three “genres” of play did Shakespeare write?

The *Brontes* lived in Yorkshire during the industrial revolution. Find three facts about life in this place and time:

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Find the answers to these questions about *J.R.R. Tolkien*:

What year did he begin writing his stories about Middle Earth?

Other than *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*, how many other books did he write?

Who was the only actor in the *Lord of the Rings* films who had met Tolkien? Who did he play?

Medieval writer *Geoffrey Chaucer* is famous for writing “*Canterbury Tales*” – a series of stories told by pilgrims on their way to visit a church. Research one of the stories and write the main points below:

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Tell the story to another student. Then listen to theirs and decide which one you liked best!

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Post-session comprehension

Chaucer

Why were Chaucer's pilgrims were visiting Canterbury Cathedral? Use the following words in your answer: **Thomas Becket, the King, the Pope, knights**

Shakespeare

Shakespeare used many techniques to make his writing great, match the name of the writing technique to its example below.

Alliteration	doDOdoDOdoDOdoDOdoDO
Personification	Her eyes shine like the sun...
Simile	Look - a pretty pink pig!
Iambic Pentameter	The wind blew angrily.

The Brontes

What was the job of the Brontes' father?

How many Bronte children lived to be adults?

What was the big problem with the brother, Branwell?

Which Bronte sister lived the longest?

What happy event happened near the end of the life?

J.R.R. Tolkien

Which war did Tolkien fight in?

What was his original motivation for writing his books?

Why, specifically, did he have a "private grudge" against Adolf Hitler. .

Famous British Writers

Reading comprehension (higher)

Read the article below and answer the questions:

'Shakespeare's ghost' chases armed robbers after Stratford-upon-Avon jewellery raid

A Shakespeare street performer chased armed raiders through the historic town of Stratford-upon-Avon after they had robbed a jewellers.

Staff inside Christopher Poel jewellers watched as three men, two armed with sledgehammers and one with a crowbar, smashed windows and stole watches.

They fled when shopkeepers threw chairs at them, with "Shakespeare's ghost" performer John Jarvis in pursuit. He said he brought one man to the floor but the trio eventually escaped.

Shop owner Christopher Poel said: "Apparently there were three men, two with sledge hammers and one with a crowbar. They were attacking the window in unison. They badly damaged the glass. They got a number of high-value watches but I don't know how many yet. We're talking tens of thousands of pounds. Luckily everyone was inside, they only attacked from the outside. There are a couple of staff here and they're really shaken. It's the shock of it."

Mr Jarvis, who dresses in a white costume for his street performance in the town, said he saw three lads "whack" the shop's window "grab a few bits" then run and he gave chase.

"One of them was swinging a crowbar - I took a whack at him, because I don't like having a crowbar swung at me," he said.

"He went down there. They carried on running."

He said a "young lad" then also gave chase and Mr Jarvis carried on in case anything happened to him.

"But I ran out of steam and so did the boy and we came back."

Mr Poel said he was grateful to fellow shopkeepers who threw the chairs to try to foil the robbery.

Warwickshire Police, which deployed the force helicopter, said two men had been arrested.

True, false or doesn't say?

John Jarvis works at the jewellers.

He nearly caught one of the robbers.

The staff at the shop were scared by the incident.

The people who committed the crime have been caught.



Famous British Writers

Reading comprehension (lower)

Read the article below and answer the questions:

'Shakespeare's ghost' chases thieves after jewellery raid

A Shakespeare street performer chased armed criminals through the historic town of Stratford-upon-Avon after they had robbed a jewellery shop.

Staff inside "Christopher Poel" jewellers watched while three men, two armed with large hammers and one with a metal bar, smashed windows and stole watches.

They ran away when the staff threw chairs at them, with "Shakespeare's ghost" performer John Jarvis chasing them. He said he brought one man to the floor but the three men eventually escaped.

Shop owner Christopher Poel said: "Apparently there were three men, two with hammers and one with a crowbar. They were attacking the window at the same time. They badly damaged the glass. They got some very expensive watches but I don't know how many yet. We're talking about over ten thousand pounds. Luckily everyone was inside, they only attacked from the outside. There are a couple of staff here and they're really upset. They were very shocked."

Mr Jarvis, who dresses like William Shakespeare costume for his street performance in the town, said he saw three lads "whack" the shop's window "grab a few bits" then run while he ran after them.

"One of them was swinging a crowbar - I threw a punch at him, because I don't like having a crowbar swung at me," he said.

"He went down there. They carried on running."

He said a "young lad" then also started chasing them and Mr Jarvis continued in case anything happened to him.

"But I ran out of energy and so did the boy, so we came back."

Mr Poel said he was grateful to fellow shopkeepers who threw the chairs to try to stop the robbery.

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True, false or doesn't say?

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