

Answers

1. How have historians worked out when Shakespeare's birthday is likely to have been?
Historians have worked out when Shakespeare's birthday is likely to have been because in those days, people were usually baptised three days after their birth. Shakespeare was baptised on the 26th April, making his birthday the 23rd April, 1564.

2. Look at the second paragraph. Identify two facts we are told about Shakespeare and his family.
Accept any two. Shakespeare was the third child/his father was a leather merchant/his mother was from a wealthy family.

3. What word tells us that the cause of Hamnet's death is unclear?
The word which tells us the cause of Hamnet's death was unclear, is 'supposedly'.

4. True or false? Read these sentences and rewrite any false sentences so that they are true.

False

Around 1585, Shakespeare moved to London.

Anne and the children stayed in Stratford.

Shakespeare became a historian in the capital.

Shakespeare made money as a playwright.

Shakespeare became an actor and a playwright in the capital.

5. Explain who The King's Men were.
The King's Men were an acting company which used to be called the Chamberlain's Men until King James I was crowned king of England. Shakespeare part owned the company.

6. Look at the paragraph beginning "By now..." to the paragraph ending "...theatres were closed".
What impressions about Shakespeare, the family man, do you get from these two paragraphs?

Answers will vary.

7. What other word could the author have used instead of 'heartrending'?

The author could have used these words instead of 'heartrending': Distressing, disturbing, tragic, upsetting.

8. Use the table to sort the names of some of Shakespeare's plays.

| Tragedies | Comedies |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Romeo and Juliet King Lear Hamlet | Much Ado About Nothing The Taming of the Shrew A Midsummer Night's Dream |

9. Why do you think Shakespeare wrote plays about themes that people could relate to?

Answers will vary.

10. What opinion do you have about Shakespeare? Explain your thoughts.

Answers will vary.