

ABOUT THE DRAMATISTS

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

TAKEN FROM TEXT BOOK:

- William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was born at Stratford-on-Avon and was educated at the free Stratford Grammar School. There is no authentic documentation of his early life. He married Anne Hathaway in 1582 and moved to London in 1586 to become an actor, poet, dramatist and theatre manager. His well-known comedies are A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Merchant of Venice and Much Ado About Nothing, while his outstanding tragedies are Hamlet, King Lear, Othello and Macbeth, among many more.
- The first collected edition of Shakespeare's sonnets appeared in 1609. There are totally 154 sonnets and the major themes of these sonnets include the destructive power of time, the permanence of poetry (art), triangular love and the analysis of amorous emotion (love). It has to be noted that apart from these 154 sonnets. Shakespeare also wrote two long poems titled 'Venus and Adonis' and 'The Rape of Lucrece'.

OTHER DETAILS:

- The greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. He was the world's immortal poet.
- His genius was soon recognized and influenced personalities like the "earl of Southampton" were among his friends and patrons.
- Stratford has ever since become a place of pilgrimage for the lover's of English literature.
- He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon".
- Shakespeare produced most of his known work between 1589 and 1613.
- Totally he wrote 37 plays, 154 sonnets and 2 narrative poems. Shakespeare continued to write till the very end of his life' he died in 1616.
- As Ben Johnson rightly said, "he was not of an age, but of all ages, not of one country, but of all countries".

Thomas Hardy

Taken from text book:

- Thomas Hardy (1840 – 1928) was both a novelist and a poet. In his novels he depicted people striving against overwhelming odds within a society that was uncaring. However, he sought to improve society.

- Hardy's poetry marks a bridge between the Victorian Age and the Modernist movement of the twentieth century. Hardy's use of 'non-poetic' language and odd rhymes, coupled with his fatalistic outlook, were both a source and inspiration to numerous twentieth century writers.

Other details:

- His novels as *Far from the Madding Crowd (1874)*, *The Mayor of Casterbridge (1886)*, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles (1891)*, and *Jude the Obscure (1895)* and *woodlanders* give a moving account of people who get caught in the whirlwind of circumstances and suffer helplessly
- An English novelist and poet. A Victorian realist, in the tradition of George Eliot, he was also influenced both in his novels and poetry by Romanticism, especially by William Wordsworth.
- Charles Dickens is another important influence on Thomas Hardy. Like Dickens, he was also highly critical of much in Victorian society, though Hardy focused more on a declining rural society.