



# Bard of Avon: The Story of William Shakespeare

*Diane Stanley , Peter Vennema*

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## **Bard of Avon: The Story of William Shakespeare** Diane Stanley , Peter Vennema

William Shakespeare was the son of a glovemaker, a small-town boy with a grammar school education. Yet he grew up to become the greatest English-speaking playwright in the world. *Bard of Avon: The Story of William Shakespeare* is both his story and that of a great art rediscovered in the modern world.

Drama had been forgotten since the days of ancient Greece, but it reemerged in Elizabethan London with the building of the first modern theater. Its impact can still be imagined today. There were the theaters, open to the weather and featuring neither sets nor curtains, but equipped with dramatic special effects. There were the companies of actors--the leading men, the comedians, the boys who played women's roles--and the playwrights who gave them all lines to say.

Best of all, there was William Shakespeare, who rubbed shoulders with noblemen and royalty as well as with the rowdy crowds at the foot of the stage. He was suspected of involvement in a treasonous rebellion, and his last play literally brought down the house when cannon effects set fire to the famous Globe theater and it burned to the ground.

Award-winning collaborators Diane Stanley and Peter Vennema have once again created a feast of words and pictures to celebrate the life of a remarkable person from the pages of history: William Shakespeare, a man for all time."

## **Bard of Avon: The Story of William Shakespeare Details**

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Author : Diane Stanley , Peter Vennema

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# **From Reader Review Bard of Avon: The Story of William Shakespeare for online ebook**

**Camille Tesch says**

England ages 8-10

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**Morris says**

Its good

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**Stephanie Sheaffer says**

Solid overview of Shakespeare's life. I would recommend for homeschool/classroom use for any age level (young children as a read-aloud up to adult).

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**Nevada Libert says**

this is a great biography of shakespeare and his life. this is a really good book. shakespeare fascinates me so much.

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**Karen says**

Good history of Shakespeare for a 1 time read...krb 7/12/17

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**Christine Turner says**

William Shakespeare was the son of a glovemaking, a small-town boy with a grammar school education. Yet he grew up to become the greatest English-speaking playwright in the world. Bard of Avon: The Story of William Shakespeare is both his story and that of a great art rediscovered in the modern world. Drama had been forgotten since the days of ancient Greece, but it reemerged in Elizabethan London with the building of the first modern theater. Its impact can still be imagined today. There were the theaters, open to the weather and featuring neither sets nor curtains, but equipped with dramatic special effects. There were the companies of actors--the leading men, the comedians, the boys who played women's roles--and the playwrights who gave them all lines to say. Best of all, there was William Shakespeare, who rubbed shoulders with noblemen and royalty as well as with the rowdy crowds at the foot of the stage. He was suspected of involvement in a treasonous rebellion, and his last play literally brought down the house when cannon effects set fire to the famous Globe theater and it

burned to the ground.

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### **Boni says**

Fascinating to me as an adult, but way too text-heavy for a picture book. Definitely for the higher end of the age range-or better yet, middle-schoolers.

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### **K. says**

While I don't think this book would likely grab a young child's attention (lots of words, good pictures but not fascinating), it is a well done short biography of the life of Shakespeare.

The authors did a great job of taking what little "fact" there is about the Bard and condensing it into a readable little book to read aloud to youngsters. Despite that they felt it necessary to mention that Will & Anne's first child was born a mere 6 months after their wedding (would that even cause a child to bat an eye? Like most kids know how long gestation is!), the information is well chosen and seems to lack superfluity. It's a nice little intro not only to Shakespeare, but to his times.

I'll be using it this year in Shakespeare class.

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### **S. Harpel says**

It was a very interesting read about the life and time of Shakespeare that I read with my kids for school. I think they got a lot out of it, including what the life and times were like for theater troops in Shakespeare's time.

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### **Amy Edwards says**

Both boys groaned when I said, "Come on, let's read this," but when we were interrupted partway through Toby said, "Keep reading, Mom." I think this is a good entry to Shakespeare's biography and also throws in some details about the Elizabethan theaters.

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### **Kimberly Brown says**

This is a great introduction to upper elementary aged children on who Shakespeare was, and the impact he has had.

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## **Lmichelleb says**

While reading this to be ready to discuss with my son next year as part of his school work, I discovered I had some things to learn about Shakespeare and the times in which he lived. I wondered what my own reaction might have been in attending one of his plays: or would I have boycotted them like the Puritans? I enjoyed learning about some of the reasons Shakespeare's writing style changed as historical events shaped him or available actors changed. The beautiful illustrations make these pages delightful to look through!

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## **Yvonne says**

Feeling the need to read more about William Shakespeare.

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## **Sherry Elmer says**

My 8 year old and I both gave this biography of the Bard 4 stars. Diane Stanley is a good storyteller and wonderful illustrator. We learned something about Elizabethan times in general and William Shakespeare in particular. The anecdote about the man whose pants caught fire when The Globe burned down caused some laughter in my home; the stage mechanics such as the upper and lower trap doors and real pig's blood were found particularly interesting; and the illustration of the beloved Midsummer Night's Dream was appreciated, as was any and all mention of swords.

On the other hand, I didn't find the mention of William's daughter being born only six months after his marriage, or the author's speculation on the happiness of his marriage to be necessary in a children's biography.

Overall, a good introduction to the life and times of William Shakespeare for middle to upper elementary students, or could be used as a picture book (without reading the whole story) for younger children.

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## **Heidi says**

Bard of Avon, By Diane Stanley. (Morrow Junior books, 1992) 45p. Biography

Summary - So little is known of William Shakespeare's life other than his famous plays and Sonnets. Stanley does a superb job condensing this celebrated playwright's life and works in a few pages. She also shares the inaccuracies and rumors that abound about Shakespeare, but lets the reader make his or her own assumptions.

Critique – parallel between time period and when plays/sonnets were written

(B) Stanley does an excellent job making a connection between when Shakespeare's plays were written.

Each play/sonnet was conceived at either a specific event in history or at a specific time in his own personal life.

(C) During his earlier works, his works were much lighter in nature. He even “wove humor into tragedies (p.21). However, “In 1601, politics and danger entered Shakespeare’s world.” (p.31) These events changed the course of Shakespeare’s writing. His best friend was imprisoned in the Tower for being part of a political uprising and his father died. It was during this time that he wrote his “great tragedies: Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, Macbeth, and Anthony and Cleopatra.” (p.33). These plays show a darker side of mankind which was directly related to the political corruption during this time period. His last few plays had a “gentle quality about them” (p.37) which showed that Shakespeare was at peace during his later years in life.

Curriculum Connection – The obvious ways to use this book would be when studying Shakespeare in English or Drama class. However, it could also be used in history as how a time period influences inventions, politics, or the literature of that time. Perhaps it could be used as an example of escapism that people incorporate into their lives at stressful times, like the people did during the Plague.

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