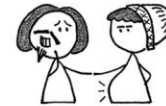


10 Fun facts about the Shakespeare family:

- John and Mary Shakespeare reused the name Joan after their first-born daughter died. This was common at the time, as many children did not survive the first years of their life.

- William's youngest brother Edmund also became an actor in London.

- William married very young, at the age of 18. His daughter Susanna was born only six months after William and Anne married.



- William's father John had to pay a fine for putting up a dunghill in front of his house.

- William left school when he was about 14 or 15 years old. He probably never went to university.



- William applied for a coat of arms for his father when he became rich enough as a playwright, poet and performer. He was successful, and the Shakespeares were allowed to call themselves "gentlemen".

- Susanna was rumoured to have been unfaithful to John Hall.

- Thomas Quiney was found to have fathered another child before his marriage to Judith.

- William changed his testament shortly before he died, after Thomas Quiney's trial.

- William left his second-best bed to his wife Anne when he died. Some people think this means that he did not love her. But actually the best bed in a household used to be the guest bed, so the second-best would have been their marriage bed.

