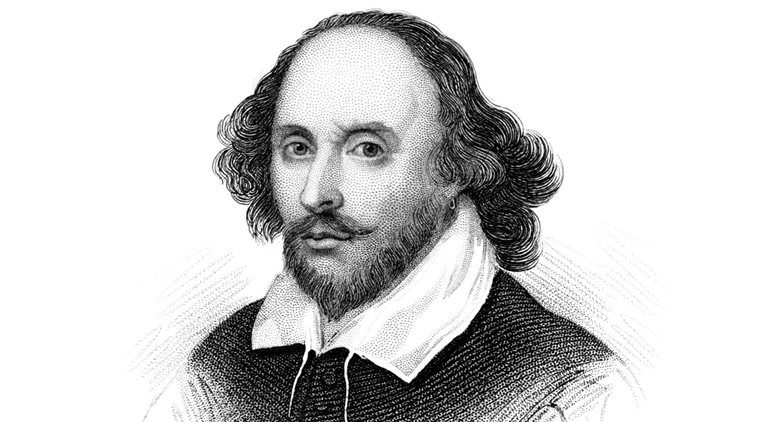
**Shakespeare – Introduction**

Shakespeare’s Writing Style:

Shakespeare’s poems are often hard to read for starters, because back in the 16th century, people spoke and wrote English very differently. The best way to get a feel for his style is to read it aloud:

1.*Read this passage of ’Romeo and Juliet’ aloud:*

Words invented by Shakespeare:

Uncomfortable

Assassination

Eventful

Eyeball

Addiction

Fashionable

Cold-blooded

Swagger

Manager

*Two households, both alike in dignity,  
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,  
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,  
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.  
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes  
A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;  
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows  
Do with their death bury their parents' strife*.

You will have noticed by now, that the text sounds very dramatic, that’s because it was written as a play, to be performed on a stage.

Nevertheless, there are many creative ways to explore Shakespeare:

2*.Watch two clips out of the 1968 and the 1996 movie versions and compare them with one another. Then, discuss the differences between the two with your partner.*

3.*Now, try to imitate Shakespeare’s language by translating a casual conversation into his style.*

Tip: Many words employed by Shakespeare differ from our modern equivalents. For example, **you** was considered very formal, **thou** and **thee** were more common. Similar to that, **thy** was used instead of your and **art** instead of are.

*4.Read it aloud for your partner and have him read out his/hers. Then discuss your result.*