Shakespeare – the Bard of Avon

**Task 1: [20 min]**

Read the following text and mark important stages of Shakespeare’s life. Note your results on the timeline below.

**The last 400 years meant the rise of human kind to its present status. From Enlightenment to the Industrial Revolution, man has held on to one thing: Poetry**

**Task 2: Partner work [20 min]**

1. If Shakespeare lived today, *he would…/ would not…* Think of modern things/ ideas/ words/ motifs that he would have used
2. Would Shakespeare still have reached the same popularity if he had written modern dramas?
3. What is the importance of theater and acting in our society? How great was Shakespeare’s influence?

Write your results into your exercise book

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| Shakespeare, William (baptised April 26, 1564, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire – d. April 23, 1616, Stratford-on-Avon), poet and dramatist widely regarded as the greatest writer of all time. His plays, written in the late 16th and early 17th centuries for the theatre, are today performed more often and in more countries than ever before. Ben Jonson’s prophecy that he “was not of an age, but for all time” has been marvellously fulfilled.  His early life was spent in Stratford-on-Avon, where he almost certainly attended the local grammar school. At 18 he married a local girl, Anne Hathaway, who bore him a daughter, Susanna, and twins, Hamnet and Judith. By 1589 he had emerged as a rising playwright in London. He continued to live there, enjoying fame and prosperity as a member of London’s leading theatre company, the Lord Chamberlain’s Men (known as the King’s Men from 1603 onward). In about 1610 he spent less time in London and more in Stratford. His will was made in March 1616, and he died a few weeks later. He was buried in the parish church at Stratford.  Famous Plays:  Titus Andronicus- 1593  Romeo and Juliet- 1594  A Midsummer Night’s Dream- 1595  Hamlet- 1600  Macbeth- 1605  The Tempest- 1611  Based on: Life-Language-Literature. Stuttgart: Ernst Klett 1982, S. 220. |

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