



William Shakespeare: His Life and Times

Kristen McDermott , Ari Berk , Ian P. Andrew (Illustrator) , Jonathan Lambert (Illustrator) , Eloise Lambert (Illustrator)

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A lavish, interactive introduction to the great poet's life, his work and the times he lived in.

In this enthralling scrapbook that William Shakespeare compiled for his daughter, he looks back on his life as he retires from the theatre. Discover late-sixteenth- and early-seventeenth century stories of love, war, kings and queens, fellow playwrights and actors, explorers and life in London.

William Shakespeare: His Life and Times Details

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From Reader Review William Shakespeare: His Life and Times for online ebook

Susan says

I found this while inventorying the Children's biographies. Written in the format of a scrapbook for his daughter Judith, this is a fascinating view into Shakespeare's life.

Margo Tanenbaum says

This handsome interactive volume, similar to the "Ology" series also published by Candlewick (the highly popular Pirateology, Dragonology, etc.), purports to be William Shakespeare's personal scrapbook, put together in April, 1613, on the eve of his retirement from London to Stratford-upon Avon.

The book is filled with all kinds of fun envelopes and tiny books to open and peruse, as well as a plethora of color illustrations. Candlewick provides a You-Tube video in which each page is turned and the viewer can see how various parts of the book open, allowing potential readers to see the layout of the book without bothering to visit the bookstore.

Written in a kind of mock-Elizabethan style, Shakespeare writes his reminiscences for the benefit of his daughter, Judith. Sidebars supplement these faux memoirs with facts, such as we know them, about Shakespeare's life, although the authors are careful to note that, for all his fame, we really know relatively little about Shakespeare's life. Nonetheless, the Bard recounts his childhood days in Stratford, including frolicking in the Forest of Arden with his siblings, his school days, courting and then progresses to talking about his marriage to Anne Hathaway, the birth of their children and the loss of his beloved son Hamnet at the age of 11. Shakespeare's scrapbook touches on a wide variety of topics, including life in London, the Globe Theatre, his fellow players, love and war, feasts and fun in Elizabethan England, life at court, ghosts and fairies, and more. The scrapbook concludes with Shakespeare's Last Will and Testament, and a letter from Shakespeare to his daughter Judith.

The book is not really laid out in a manner that would make it easily usable for a school biographical report on Shakespeare, but it could certainly supplement a more conventional biography and would make a valuable and entertaining classroom resource for teachers to have on hand when studying Shakespeare plays. Although the book is suitable for ages 8 and above, it may be more likely to appeal to students who have already begun studying Shakespeare in school (here in California that's in middle school). If a parent were taking a child to their first Shakespeare performance, this scrapbook would also be excellent to read together to provide historical background. Brief excerpts from various plays are included, as are synopses of some of his key works.

As the holidays approach, I can't help but think what a lovely holiday gift this would make to a favorite English teacher!

Donalyn says

This scrapbook, reminiscent of the Ology series, contains quotes, asides, and artifacts highlighting Shakespeare's life and the time period in which he lived.

The research, writing, and additional flaps and foldouts in the book were outstanding, but I found the type small and hard to read and many of the pictures were dark and dull.

Regina says

I love this one. The pieces that are put in the book feel very real. All little notes are very ...special and intimate. Holding them in hands feels breathtaking. I know this book is designed for kids , but I felt such joy and happiness having thin one to read.

Emily says

I loved the scrapbook inspired layout of this book, though at first it was rather confusing, as I wasn't sure what to read first, but after I developed a system it wasn't confusing at all. The book is written partly in Shakespeare's voice and partly in the narrators. There are small cards, letters, pictures, scattered through out with tidbits on history and his plays. It's a wonderful book for anyone who loves Shakespeare or even just the time period in which he lived.

Emily says

If you've ever seen Dragonology or Egyptology or Pirateology or ANY of the "Ology" books, that's what this book is like, except about Shakespeare, which makes it infinitely cooler than any of the other ones. They should have called it "Bardology".
