

→ INTRODUCING



SHAKESPEARE

A GRAPHIC GUIDE



NICK GROOM & PIERO

→ **INTRODUCING**

SHAKESPEARE

NICK GROOM & PIERO



ICON

ISBN: 978-184831-115-2

Text copyright © 2013 Icon Books Ltd Nick Groom

Illustrations copyright © 2013 Icon Books Ltd

The author and illustrator has asserted their moral rights

Originating editor: Richard Appignanesi

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form, or by any means, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Contents

Cover
Title Page
Copyright

Identifying Shakespeare
Born on St George's Day
Family Ambitions
Debts and Troubles
School Days
Lost Years
Marriage
The Hireling Actor
The Influence of Acting on Writing
The Hireling Playwright
Elizabethan Theatre Work
London Life
Shakespeare's Facility of Expression
Shakespeare's English History
Henry VI
The Hireling Poet
The Spelling of "Shak(e)speare"
An Upstart Crow
Kit Marlowe
Hony-tongued
Shaxpier Gains Success
Published Plays
Comparing the Bad Quarto of *Hamlet*
Hamlet's Revision
A "Personal" *Hamlet*?
The Original or "*Ur-Hamlet*"
The Essex Rebellion
Changing Fortunes
Retirement
Death
Early Myths of Shakespeare's Life
Shakespeare the Entrepreneur
A Gentrified Shakespeare
The Bard's Relics
Manuscripts and Shakespeare's Books
Souvenirs and National Heritage
Natural Genius
Shakespeare's Sources
"By the dim light of Nature"
A Peculiarly English Freedom

A Gothic and Sublime Genius
The Splendours of Shakespeare

The Rise of Shakespeare's Popularity
18th-Century Editions
Subsequent Tonson Editions
The Shakespeare Apocrypha
Cardenio, or The Double Falsehood
18th-Century Miscellany
Preposterous Facts and Scholarly Scepticism
Biographical Fact and Fiction
Inventions of Anecdotes
The Sonnets as Autobiography
Shakespeare's "Confessions"?
Mr W.H.
Oscar Wilde's Solution
The Dark Lady
"Lust in Action" ...
Romantic Poets
Romantic Hamlets
Shelley and Byron Discuss *Hamlet* ...
Romantic versus Modernist Hamlets
From "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"
Shakespeare Everywhere
The Biographical Pattern
The Merger of Life and Drama
The Scholarly Project
Rejects from the Canon
Theatrical Traditions
The Curse of *Macbeth*
A National Theatre
The Modernist Approach
Multi-media Shakespeare
Unearthing the Rose Theatre
Rebuilding the Globe Theatre
Shakespeare in Cinema
The Spectrum of Shakespeare Films
Cinematic and TV Adaptations
Shakespeare on a Global Scale
Bardolatry
The World's Compulsory Author
The Englishness of Shakespeare?
Is there a German Shakespeare?
And Now a European Shakespeare?
The Criticism of Close Reading
Mouthpiece of the Conservative Establishment
The Political Misuse of Shakespeare
New Historicism

Cultural Materialism
The Late Capitalist Show
Post-Colonial Criticism
Shakespeare's Views on Race?
Feminist Criticism
Twentieth-Century Feminist Criticism
The Gender Question
Queer Theory
Psychoanalytic Criticism
Authorship Controversy
Shakespeare Gets his Bacon
Other Bacon Partisans
Decoding Shakespeare
Cryptograms, Ciphers and Acrostics
The Oxford Controversy – and Looney Tunes
And So, in Conclusion

The Editing of Shakespeare's Texts
Chronology of Shakespeare's Plays and Poems
Selected Bibliography
Acknowledgements
Index

Identifying Shakespeare

Shakespeare is performed, read and studied in most parts of the world today. Why is there such interest - or, more important - why *should* there be any interest in an English writer from Stratford who died nearly 400 years ago? Is it because he is often said to be the world's "greatest" writer? In other words, he has transcended the limits of time and place to become a figure of global significance. That is an astonishing claim. We can begin to understand this phenomenon by asking first: "Who is the *real* William Shakespeare?"

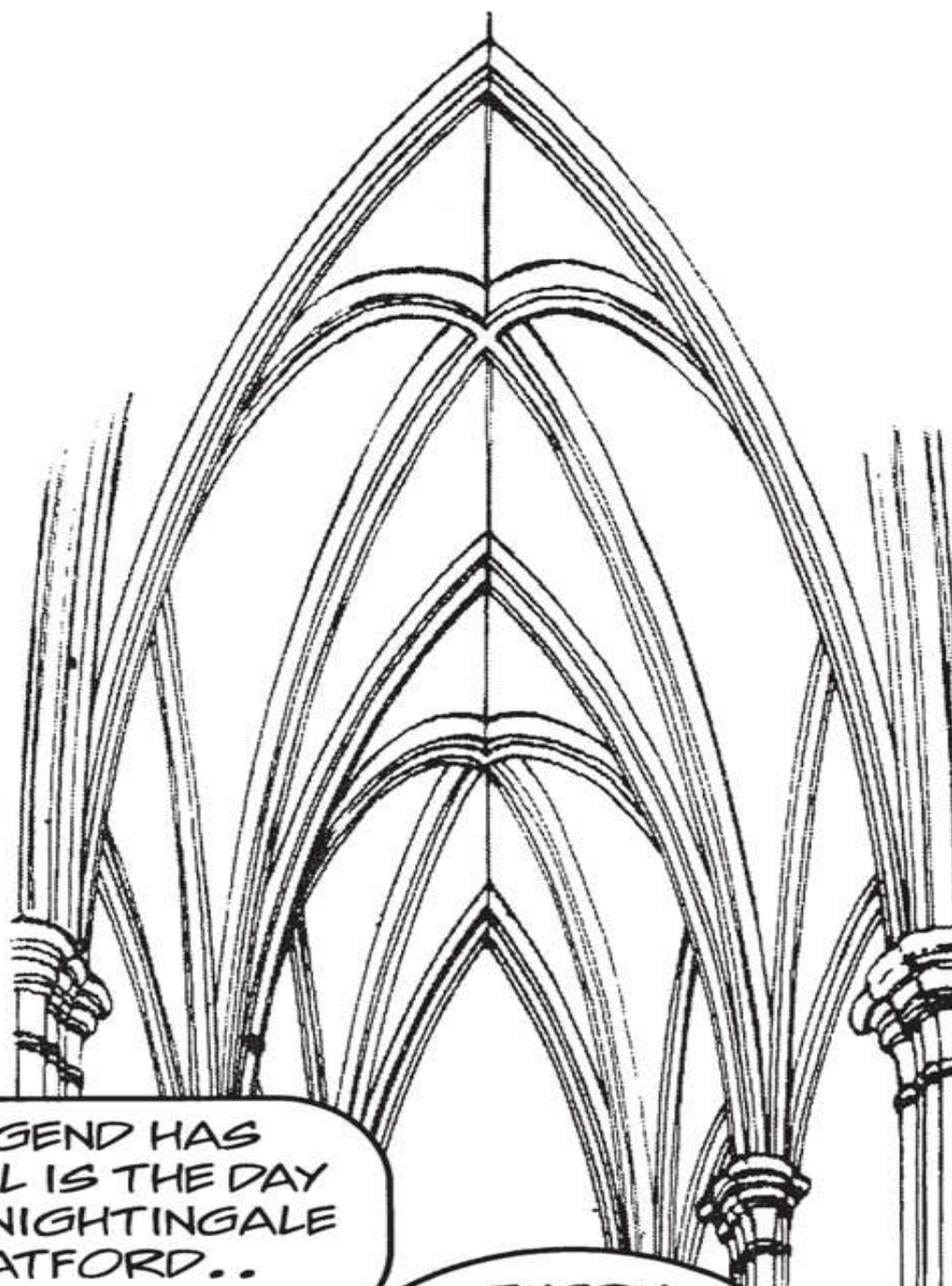


WILL THE REAL SHAKESPEARE PLEASE IDENTIFY HIMSELF?



Born on St George's Day

23 April 1564, St George's Day: William Shakespeare is born in Stratford-upon-Avon. The National Poet arrives on the day celebrating the canonization of the patron saint of England - or did he? Historical facts have been massaged to support national or cultural interests. The only reliable evidence is that Shakespeare was baptized on 26 April 1564, so he could have been born on the 21st, or the 22nd, or the 23rd - it was later "Bardolaters" (worshippers of "The Bard") who agreed that Shakespeare's birthday was St George's Day, marrying the nation to his verse.



AND LOCAL LEGEND HAS IT THAT 23 APRIL IS THE DAY THAT THE FIRST NIGHTINGALE SINGS IN STRATFORD..

ENTRY
IN PARISH
REGISTER ...
1564, APR. 26.
GULIELMUS FILIUS
JOHANNES
SHAKSPERE.

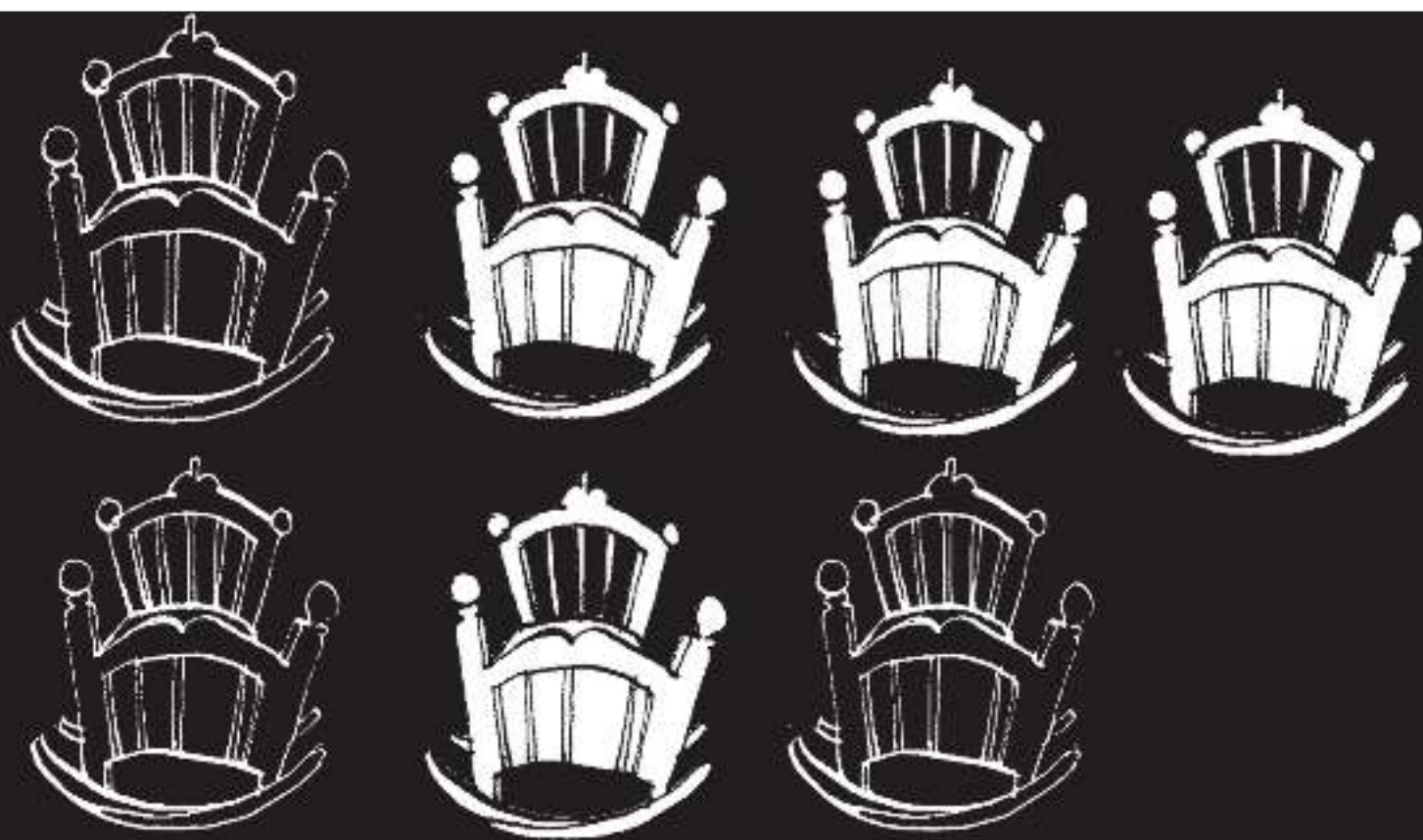




He was the eldest son of John Shakespeare, a glovemaker, who had married the Catholic girl Mary Arden in about 1557.

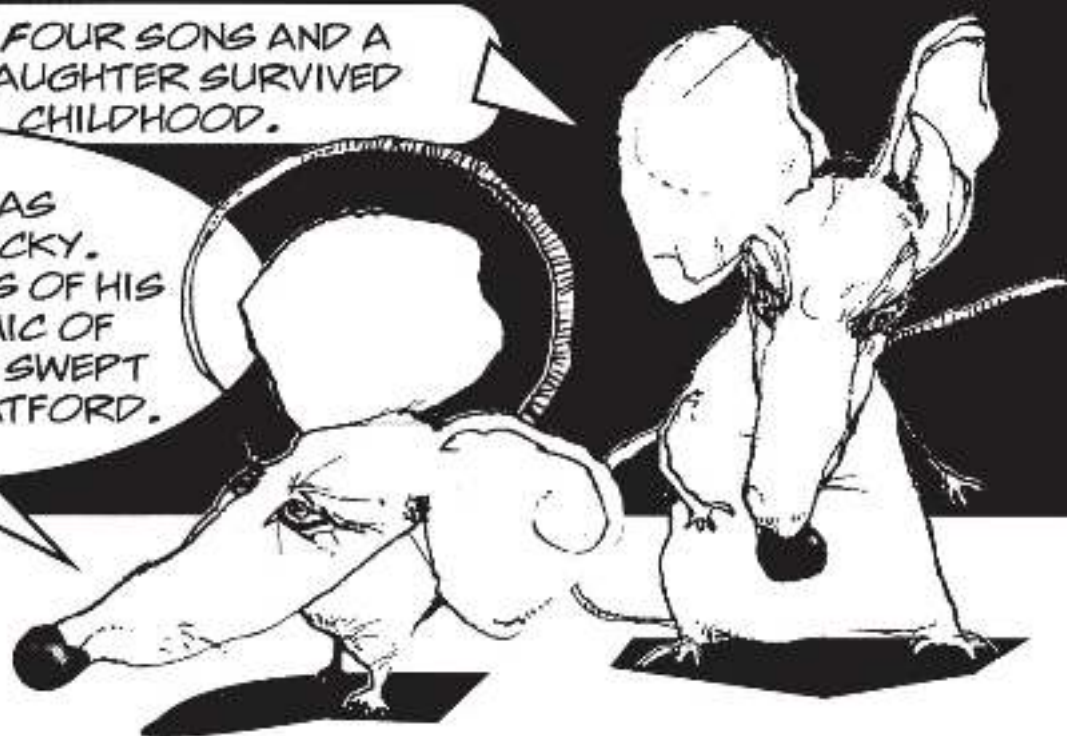


THEY
HAD EIGHT CHILDREN ...



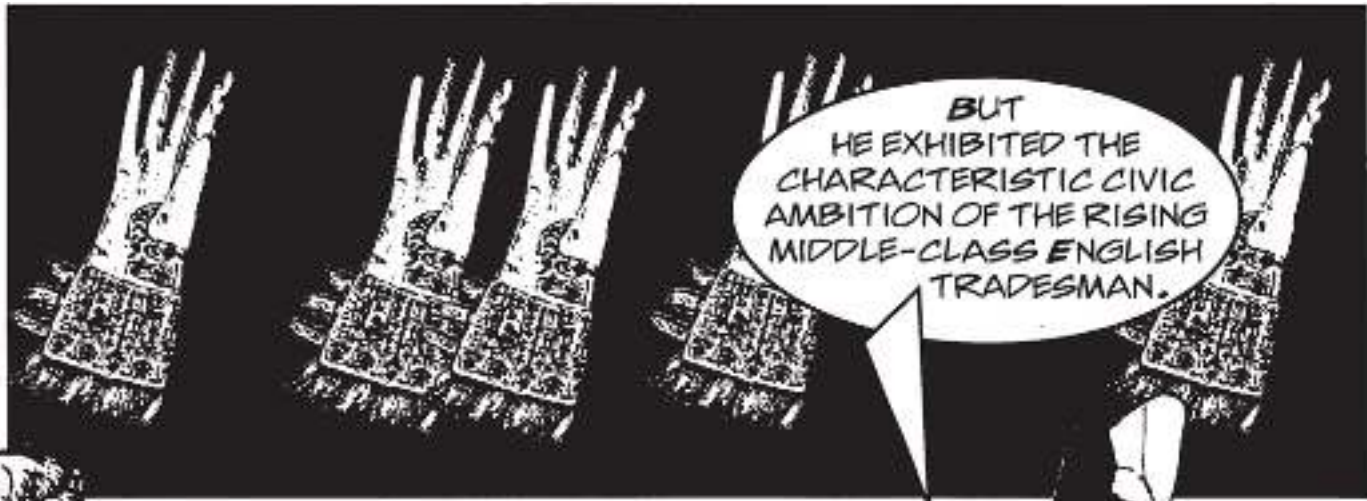
FOUR SONS AND A
DAUGHTER SURVIVED
CHILDHOOD.

WILL
HIMSELF WAS
ESPECIALLY LUCKY.
WITHIN A FEW WEEKS OF HIS
BIRTH, AN EPIDEMIC OF
BUBONIC PLAGUE SWEEP
DOWN ON STRATFORD.



Family Ambitions

Will's father, the glover of Henley Street, may not have been an educated man. He could probably read, but couldn't write much more than his accounts (though his wife signed documents with an elaborate mark that demonstrates she had some facility with a quill pen).




BUT HE EXHIBITED THE CHARACTERISTIC CIVIC AMBITION OF THE RISING MIDDLE-CLASS ENGLISH TRADESMAN.



I SERVED ON THE BOROUGH COUNCIL, BECAME MAYOR (OR HIGH BAILIFF) AND SAT AS A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.





But in 1570, as Will was about to start at school, his respectable father was fined for breaking money lending laws, and the family fortunes began to decline. Two years later, he was accused of “wool bragging”: illegally dealing in fleeces. His eldest son was certainly privy to these goings-on - he remembered the details for the rest of his life.

Let me see. Every 'leven wether tods, every tod yields pound and odd shilling; fifteen hundred shorn, what comes the wool to?

This reference occurs in Shakespeare's play

The Winter's Tale, Act IV, scene iii, lines 32-

In modern English:

Every eleven rams yield a tod of 28lbs, worth 21 shillings = £14



Debts and Troubles

The Privy Council clamped down on broggers and suspended licensed wool-dealing. John Shakespeare fell into debt and mortgaged some of his property. He stopped attending Anglican services, claiming to be afraid of meeting creditors - and he may also have declared his faith as a Catholic. His application to the Heralds' College for a coat of arms was rejected, and he was eventually expelled from the Stratford council for absenteeism.

YET
THROUGH THIS HE
REMAINED "A MERRY CHEEKD OLD
MAN", WORKING IN HIS SHOP, FATHERING
MORE SHAKESPEARES AND
JESTING WITH HIS SON.



Will was by now attending the local grammar school and doing his bit to maintain the family honour

School Days

*Then the whining schoolboy, with his satchel
And shining morning face, creeping like snail
Unwillingly to school.*

As You Like It, II.vii.145

In Elizabethan England, the grammar school day ran from 6:00 in the morning until 5:30 in the afternoon, six days a week. Lessons were spent learning Latin, translating to and from Latin, and memorizing and reciting Latin poetry and prose.

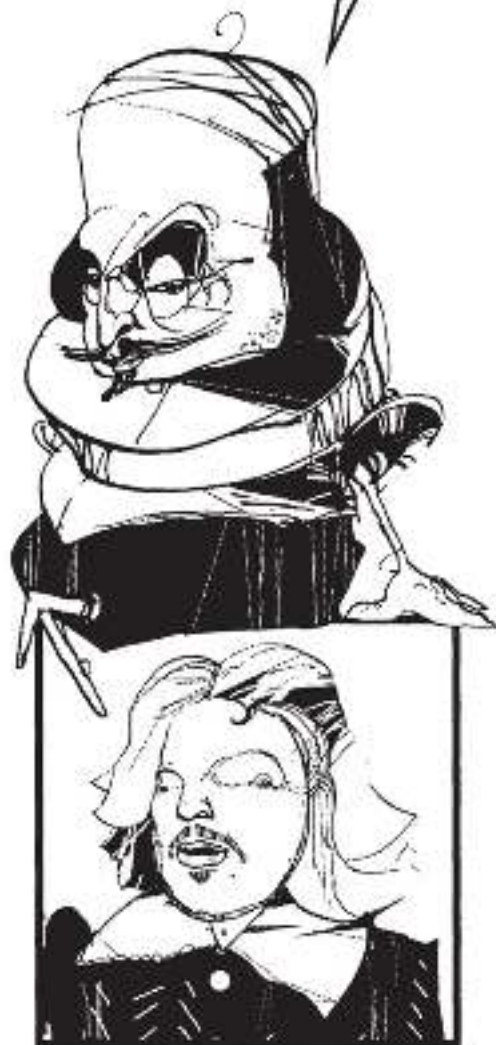


Will spent probably eight years studying Latin, covering grammar, logic, rhetoric, the drama of

Terence and Plautus, Virgil, and Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, a favourite.

His friend the playwright Ben Jonson later jested that Shakespeare had only “smalle Latine and lesse Greeke”, but Latin poetry and rhetoric trained his ear and shaped his imagination. For his early tragedy, *Titus Andronicus*, Will was inspired by Ovid, Seneca and the Roman historians.

BUT
I ALSO DEVELOPED THE
PRACTICAL IDEAS OF CONTEMPORARY
PLAYWRIGHTS LIKE THOMAS KYD
(1558-94), CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE
(1564-93) AND GEORGE PEELE
(1556-96).



He continued to use Ovid's *Metamorphoses* (in Arthur Golding's translation) for inspiration throughout his writing career, checking it against the original Latin.

Lost Years

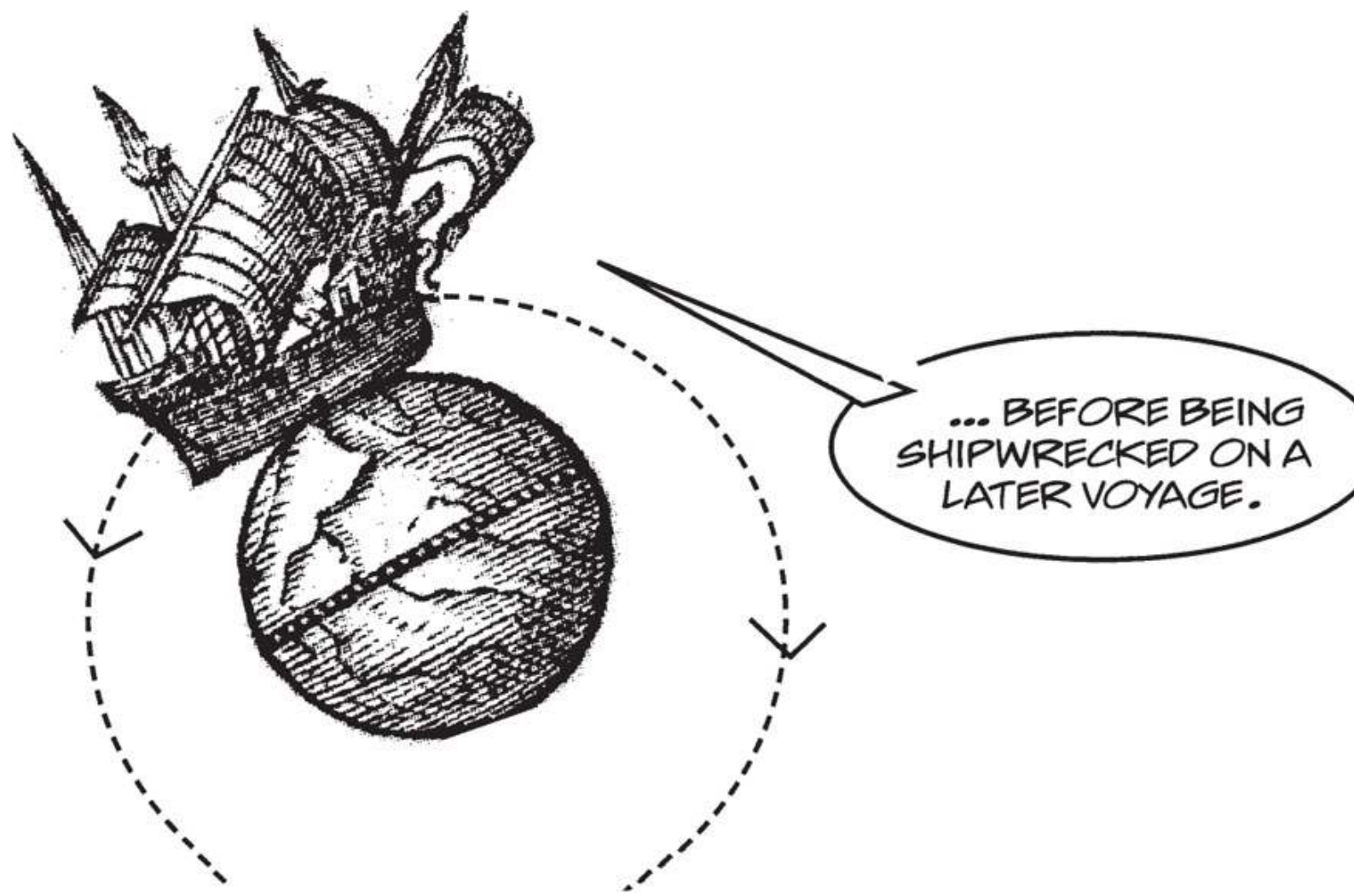
Will may then have spent another two years teaching Latin as a schoolmaster for the Houghton family in Lancashire. These are Shakespeare's "lost years". There is no reliable record of his activities, although the scholarly detail in his early plays might suggest a brief teaching placement. Many academics (being teachers themselves) support this theory, but there are others.

The wit and diplomat Duff Cooper wrote a book just after the war called *Sergeant Shakespeare* (1949)

...



The canoeist William Bliss imagined that Shakespeare circumnavigated the world with Sir Francis Drake ...



Shakespeare's life has many blank passages in it, in which critics and biographers are liable to see their own reflections as clearly as they can - or not, as Anthony Burgess wrote in his biography of Shakespeare ...

sample content of Introducing Shakespeare: A Graphic Guide

- [*Travel Yoga: Stretches for Planes, Trains, Automobiles, and More!* book](#)
- [click Kant's Critique of Pure Reason \(Indiana Philosophical Guides\)](#)
- [read online The Secret Life of the Grown-up Brain: The Surprising Talents of the Middle-Aged Mind pdf, azw \(kindle\), epub](#)
- [The Motorbike Book: The Definitive Visual History pdf, azw \(kindle\)](#)

- <http://www.1973vision.com/?library/Caterpillars-of-Eastern-North-America--A-Guide-to-Identification-and-Natural-History--Princeton-Field-Guides->
- <http://thermco.pl/library/Something-in-the-Air--Radio--Rock--and-the-Revolution-That-Shaped-a-Generation.pdf>
- <http://patrickvincitore.com/?ebooks/La-Dissertation-en-Histoire.pdf>
- <http://test.markblaustein.com/library/Wicked-at-Heart.pdf>