

Renaissance Poetry

There were many famous poets from the Renaissance era. Some of them are listed below. Find some samples of their work in the library or resource books. Read some of the poetry aloud. Then follow the directions below for making aged paper. Copy one of their poems, a Shakespearean sonnet, or a poem of your own, onto the aged paper.



Garcilaso de la Vega, (c. 1501-1536)
Juan Boscán, (c. 1492-1542)
Luiz de Camões, (1524-1580)
Philip Sidney, (1554-1586)
Christopher Marlowe, (1564-1593)
John Donne, (1572-1631)
Robert Herrick, (1591-1674)
Thomas Wyatt, (1503-1542)
Edmund Spenser, (1552-1599)
Michael Drayton, (1563-1631)
Ben Jonson, (1572-1637)
George Herbert, (1593-1633)
Ludovico Ariosto (1474-1533)
Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564)
Joachim du Bellay (1522-1560)
Pierre de Ronsard (1524-1585)



Making Aged Paper

Materials:

white, tan, or gray construction paper; tea bag; candle; cup; hot water; sponge; pens or markers; calligraphy pen (optional)

Directions:

1. Make a strong tea solution using one tea bag in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (125 mL) of hot water.
2. Dip a corner of the sponge in the strong tea and wipe over the paper to stain it.
3. Tear the edges of the paper in several places. Make the tears $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch (1.25-2.5 cm) deep.
4. **Note:** This step requires teacher supervision. Over a sink carefully use a lighted candle to singe the edges of the paper. If the paper begins to flame, use the sponge to smother it or drop it in the sink.
5. Allow the paper to dry.
6. Carefully write your poetry sample on the dried paper, using pens, markers, or a calligraphy pen.

Scrambled Shakespeare

Oh, no! The “long and short of it” is that someone mixed up Shakespeare’s biography and it’s all scrambled. Read the sentences below. Then number them in the correct order.

As an extension, strips can be cut out and glued onto individual large sheets of paper. Have students illustrate the strips and assemble them into a Big Book. Make a cover and share the book as a review of Shakespeare’s life.

<input type="checkbox"/>	By 1594, Shakespeare had written five more plays and would write several more that year.
<input type="checkbox"/>	After the births of his three children, Shakespeare moved to London, leaving his family behind.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shakespeare watched his first play when a group of traveling actors called the “Queen’s Players” came to town in 1569.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The plague broke out in London and all the theaters were closed for two years. Shakespeare wrote two long poems that he dedicated to the Earl of Southampton.
<input type="checkbox"/>	When he was 18 years old, he married Anne Hathaway, who was 26 years old. They had three children.
<input type="checkbox"/>	After James I became King of England, Shakespeare wrote <i>Macbeth</i> , a story from Scottish history because James was also King of Scotland.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shakespeare graduated from Stratford’s Grammar School when he was sixteen. There was no money for the University, so he went to work.
<input type="checkbox"/>	In 1599, the building of a new theater, named the Globe was a great event in Shakespeare’s life and would be a name forever linked with his.
<input type="checkbox"/>	When Shakespeare was 47, he retired to Stratford. He wrote his last few plays from there. They are gentle and full of love for the countryside.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Southampton paid Shakespeare a lot of money for his poems. He invested the money in James Burbage’s acting company, the Lord Chamberlain’s Men.
<input type="checkbox"/>	After the Globe Theater burned and was eventually rebuilt, William Shakespeare did not write any more plays. He died on April 23, 1616.
<input type="checkbox"/>	In 1592, Shakespeare wrote a play, <i>Henry VI</i> , and acted in it. It was good enough to make the famous playwrights very jealous.