

The Magazine For Young Mensans

FREED

Summer 2011

Volume 3 Issue 1

Real Accounts from
REAL Mensan Kid Actors!

**PUBLISHED AT 12:
MEET LILY GREENBERG CALL**

LOTS
about
William
Shakespeare!

PLUS:
CREATIVE WRITING
JOKES
AND MORE!

ALL THE
WORLD'S
A STAGE

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LETTER FROM Fred

Do you know what an anagram is? At its simplest, an anagram is when you rearrange the letters of a word or phrase to form another word or phrase. All the letters have to be used exactly once, no adding or taking away letters.

An easy anagram would be changing "orchestra" to "carthorse." More difficult is using the letters to explain or define the subject. For example, if the subject is "A decimal point," you could change it to "I'm a dot in place." Cool, huh?

This anagram is amazing: [From *Hamlet* by Shakespeare] "To be or not to be: that is the question, whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune." Becomes: In one of the Bard's best-thought-of tragedies, our insistent hero, *Hamlet*, queries on two fronts about how life turns rotten.

William Shakespeare was a huge lover of word play like anagrams. He used puns, riddles and jokes in the plays and poems he wrote. In this issue we have lots of stories about Shakespeare and his writing, plus original poems and cartoons, a story about starring on *Saturday Night Live* by a six-year-old Mensan and an interview with a ten-year-old professional actress from Chicago. Read on!

Fred



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE-BEGINNING, MIDDLE, AND END

By Saloni T. ● age 14 ● Northern NJ Mensa

William Shakespeare grew up in Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire, England. His birthday is believed to be April 23, 1564, and he was baptized on April 26, 1564. Shakespeare, being the legendary playwright and poet he is, people would think that he got an extensive education, when really, he is said to have only attended Stratford Grammar School. This is said to be Shakespeare's only real education, and historians do not know how long he attended it. Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway, a farmer's daughter, when he was only eighteen, and she was twenty-six.

The years between 1585 and 1592 are called "The Lost Years." Some think that he might have become a schoolteacher, become an apprentice to the butcher, or he may have been running from the law. After 1592, the first evidence of Shakespeare was in London. He had established himself as a playwright and actor, and also had Henry Wriothsley be his sponsor. From around 1592 to 1594, it is said that Shakespeare probably had some income from Henry Wriothsley, Earl of Southampton. Shakespeare also dedicated his first two poems, "Venus and Adonis," 1593, and "The Rape of Lucrece," 1594, to Henry Wriothsley. Shakespeare's work in the theaters, however, came to a stop in the January of 1593 when all the theaters closed because of the plague. He worked for the company "Lord Chamberlain's Men," and then they changed their name to "The King's Men," after King James I had taken it over in 1603. Due to Shakespeare working for and performing for them in the Globe Theater, and with his share of the income from this theater, not only did the Globe become the most famous theater of this time, but also "The King's Men" became the largest and most famous acting company. Shakespeare became very wealthy from being a director, writer, actor, and stockholder in "The King's Men." With his earned income, he was able to purchase a new home in Stratford, his hometown. "The King's Men" in 1598 rose to become London's leading dramatic company. Also, members from the company then worked in the royal household, a very big honor, in 1603.



He then retired and left London in 1611. On March 25, 1616, he made a will and died on April 23, 1616; he was 52 years old. To this day, the cause of his death is unknown. Shakespeare also wrote his own epitaph because during the time when a graveyard was full, people would dig up a person's corpse and burn it so that another corpse could be buried in its place. Shakespeare was utterly disgusted by this, and he did not want this kind of lack of respect after his death. His epitaph is the following:

"Good Friends, for Jesus' sake forbear,
To dig the bones enclosed here!
Blest be the man that spares these stones,
And curst be he that moves my bones."

To this day, no one has touched Shakespeare's grave.

The Devil at Night

By Siddharth T. ■ Age 11 ■ Northern New Jersey Mensa

William Shakespeare, a renowned author and playwright, has a very inspirational history. I found this out because I went to Shakespeare's home and learned many peculiar but fascinating facts.

Shakespeare lived in Stratford-Upon-Avon, in a dilapidated house that contained a whole story about Shakespeare's life. When I first entered, my thoughts were pessimistic; another old and boring tour of a famous writer. Well I was wrong.

Shakespeare received inadequate education at Stratford grammar school. It is unclear exactly how many times he



attended this school but we know for a fact it was very little. On November 28, 1583 he married Anne Hathaway.

I saw the desk where he wrote some of his most famous plays but one of the most intriguing facts in that period of time was they slept upwards. How usually a bed is flat, this bed had a curve, so they wouldn't lay down straight; meaning they slept sitting up. I thought it was absurd but also fascinating. This was because they thought if they lay down flat on the bed, the devil would take their souls at night when they were sleeping. I enjoyed learning about Shakespeare's background and thought he was very talented!

William Shakespeare: A Master Poet

By Anika T. ● Age 16 ● Northern New Jersey Mensa

William Shakespeare is arguably the best writer in the history of literature. However, unbeknownst to most people, Shakespeare was also an avid poet. He composed just over one hundred and fifty sonnets. His sonnets all circled four basic themes: beauty, love, death, and time. Shakespeare also used these themes in many of his plays, *Romeo and Juliet* being one of the more famous. He would use characters, namely the "Fair Youth", "Rival Poet", and "Dark Lady", as representations for each theme.

It has been deduced that the Fair Youth represents love and beauty. Within Shakespeare's sonnets, a myriad were dedicated to the Fair Youth, and the language in which he is addressed has led to the speculation that the relationship between whoever the Fair Youth was talking to was that of either platonic or a homosexual love. However, most interpret it as innocent love. His language was more simple, and his comparisons more common. In Sonnet 18: Shall I compare thee to a Summer's day?, he wrote, "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? /Thou art more lovely and more temperate." Later, in the same sonnet, Shakespeare wrote, "And often is his gold complexion dimm'd; /And every fair from fair sometimes declines." This quote, along with others, led some critics to the belief that the Fair Youth is a male.

When Shakespeare started writing about the Dark Lady, his poems branched off from those of the Fair Youth. The Dark Lady's section in Shakespeare's collection is much more passionate than that before or after. The sonnets that reference the Dark

Lady start mentioning a mistress, and the language is thicker in description and emotion. "My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun; /Coral is far more red than her lips' red," wrote Shakespeare in Sonnet 130: My Mistress' Eyes. This sonnet is one of Shakespeare's most famous poems; it denies the beauty of the Dark Lady, yet afterwards it proclaims his love for her.

The Rival Poet is generally spoken about with the Fair Youth. The character appears to be a friendly competition for fame and fortune. Society back in Renaissance primarily revolved around beauty and death was the most feared object. Time was obscure and love was pure but also mysterious. Historians and experts in literature have attempted to name actual figures to these characters, but have no concrete evidence that would provide a face to the name.

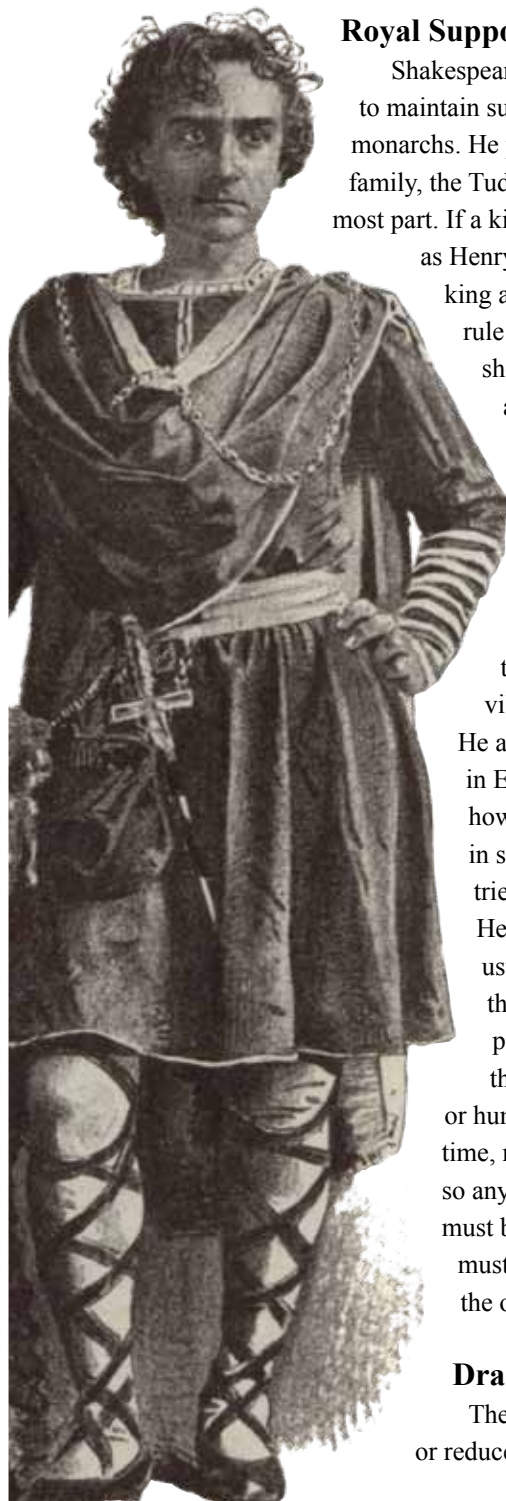
Shakespeare's sonnets were an innovation leading into more modern poetry. His risqué writing techniques and blatant disregard for societal rules that restricted writing produced beautiful poetry. He began a new form of romanticism. Shakespeare's sonnets have been translated into almost all major languages, and some minor ones including Latin and Klingon (a made up language in the show and movie *Star Trek*). The structure of his sonnets were so unique, they were named after him. Shakespearean sonnets are some of the most studied poems in the world, but when in high school or college, most unspecialized classes skip over this part of Shakespeare's legacy.

Shakespeare: History Versus Reality

By Connor S. ■ Age 14 ■ Boston Mensa

Shakespeare's history plays are certainly entertaining, full of heroic kings and wicked villains who challenge them for their thrones. But are they entirely accurate, compared to real history? Shakespeare changed many different elements in his plays, for a number of reasons.

Royal Support



Shakespeare changed certain things to maintain support from the English monarchs. He portrayed the ruling family, the Tudors, as heroes- for the most part. If a king was dethroned, such as Henry VI, he showed that king as weak and unworthy to rule in the first place, or else showed the usurper as being a wicked, plotting villain. In the period known as the War of the Roses, he showed the Lancaster house, which would later become the Tudors, as 'good', and their enemies of York as villains and warmongers. He also rejected any rebellions in English history as 'vile'- however, he did glorify some in stories about other countries (e.g., *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*). He attempted to justify some usurpations by portraying the existing king as incompetent, unfair, or cruel, and the new king as just, strong, or humble. In the beliefs of the time, rulers are chosen by God, so any successful usurpation must be justified- in short, God must have wanted to get rid of the old king.

Dramatic Effect

The playwright removed or reduced the impact of some

scenes, and overemphasized others, in order to get the proper atmosphere. Occasionally he just made things up altogether. He often compressed time, moving events around and placing them nearer to each other in time; two events that Shakespeare shows as being within weeks of each other may have been decades apart; again, this helps heighten the drama by piling numerous events on top of the hero that they have to deal with quickly. For example, Shakespeare showed the Battle of Agincourt as being the deciding victory of the war in Henry V, even though the French actually surrendered 5 years after the battle.

Contrast

A specific form of the above category, Shakespeare often exaggerated certain elements of history to create contrast. He vilified some characters and glorified others to create a sharper contrast between the sides and place greater emphasis on the hero's positive qualities and the villain's negative qualities.

He overemphasized the negative qualities of Richard II and ignored his more noble aspects to contrast him with Bolingbroke, his usurper. The villainous character Falstaff in the second part of Henry IV was completely fictitious, created as a counterpart to the virtuous Prince Hal.

Mistakes

Shakespeare sometimes just made honest mistakes. He often used the only available sources, which were wrong or incomplete. As they say, history is written by the victors, so stories about kings and rebels who were conquered show them as villains who deserved what they got. Shakespeare portrayed Richard III as a much more evil man than he actually was, most likely because the only writers at the time praised his conqueror, Henry VII, and claimed that Richard III was a monster who deserved death. In fact, Richard III probably wasn't even physically deformed at all, and was just a fairly average king.

Of course, these reasons are all merely popular opinion. Nobody can really know what the bard's motivations were- except Shakespeare himself!

To learn more, check out these sites:

partners.nytimes.com/library/books/041100norwich-book-review.html

www.umich.edu/~shkspre/

The Three Types of Shakespearean Plays

By Rebecca S. ■ Age 6 ■ Boston Mensa



Shakespeare wrote a bunch of different plays, and the people who studied them put them into three different categories: comedies, histories, and tragedies.

A Shakespearean history is based on real events. Most of them are about English kings, but some are about ancient Rome and Egypt. *Julius Caesar* and *Henry V* are some of the more popular histories.

A tragedy is a sad play. Usually some of the main characters get killed. There is a lot of death. Two of Shakespeare's tragedies are *King Lear* and *Hamlet*. This is a famous quote from *Hamlet*, as he is

holding a skull and looking at it, "Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him, Horatio, a fellow of infinite jest, of most excellent fancy. He hath bore me on his back a thousand times, and now how abhorr'd in my imagination it is! My gorge rises at it."

A comedy is a play that is really happy and funny. There are a lot of different types of humor, like slapstick, puns, and practical jokes. There is also often more than one plot. A servant might be clever or wise too. Some of the more well known comedies are *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Twelfth Night*. In many of Shakespeare's comedies, some of the girls dress as boys. It always has a happy ending, and usually ends in marriage.

Maddie S's top five Shakespearean heroines (in no particular order).

By Maddie S. ● Age 11 ● Boston Mensa



I've been reading Shakespeare for years, and these are the heroines who left me wanting more!

This is my list of my top five favorite heroines from all of Shakespeare's plays- the girls who I think were the bravest and cleverest. I hope you like them too!

- **Hermia**- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. I've always liked Hermia. Even once her love leaves her, she keeps going- she doesn't curl up and cry.
- **Kate**- *The Taming of the Shrew*. Kate isn't a doormat like women were supposed to be. She was strong and spunky, and she thought for herself.
- **Viola**- *Twelfth Night*. Viola is resourceful- when she's shipwrecked, she looks for a job. And when she's told only men can have the job she wants, she cuts her hair and dresses as a boy.
- **Juliet**- *Romeo and Juliet*. Juliet is a tragic heroine. Once she meets her love Romeo, she ignores their family's feud and marries him in secret because she wants to.
- **Ophelia**-*Hamlet*. Ophelia is pretty cool, even if she does go insane and drown. She's Hamlet's girlfriend before the play *Hamlet* started.

What it's Like To Be A Child Actor On Saturday Night Live

By Chase F. ● Age 6 ● Greater New York Mensa

At 6:30 PM I went to the security door of NBC Studios and then went to the next room inside a long hallway. Suddenly there I was, inside the sound stage of *Saturday Night Live*! Somebody greeted me and took me to the wardrobe room. There is where I turned into a six-year-old Andy Samberg. I went upstairs to show my Mother who said, "You look just like Andy." And then Andy appeared with the two other performers. He introduced himself and said "This is your future..." We all cracked up. I should tell you what I looked like! I was wearing a much too small size 4 suit and I wear a size six! I had nice shoes with crazy argyle socks.

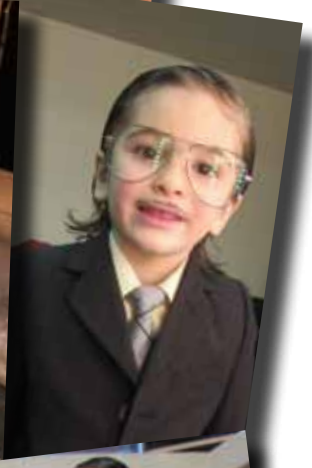
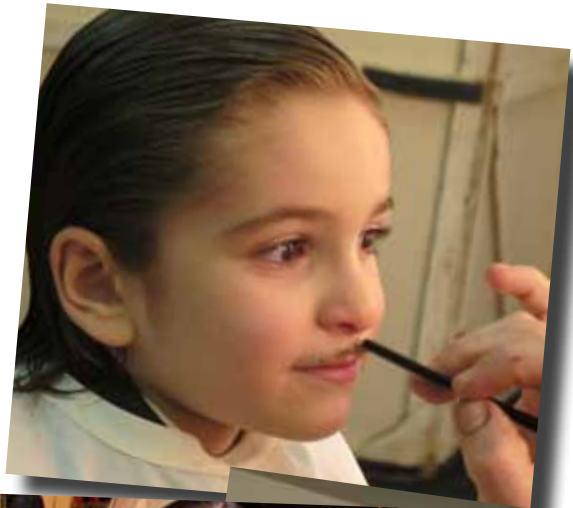
Then I went to the craft table where I got two bread buns and crackers and started reading a book from the Redwall series. Then I looked up and saw they were dancing The Creep. I moved my chair and watched them rehearse and tape part of the video. It was so catchy that I started dancing and mimicking them! It got a little slow but I was so excited for the next scene to start. After an hour or so they filmed the beach scene. The Creep guys were doing the dance and scaring people. While this was being filmed I had to leave to get a fake moustache put on. It felt prickly! I looked fantastic and crazy. I got my face make-up and my hair done. My hair was slicked back like the guys on Wall Street. Everybody treated me great.

At 10:00 PM they were ready for me. I went on set where they directed me what to do. It was an experience I will never forget. My fake parents went to bed on the set. Then my job was to peer around the corner sneaking up on them. My next scene was in the front of the bed doing The Creep. It felt exciting to be performing for television. We filmed this for about an hour taking breaks and reading my book.

Finally it was a wrap at 11:00. I never wanted to leave. Unfortunately we had to remove the moustache...that really hurt! The make-up artists were so nice, they said that Andy had skin like me and he used a special topical pain remover whenever he removed his fake facial hair. It worked completely! I removed my costume (that they let me keep) and changed into my street clothes.

I took some extra candy from the craft table on my way out the door. When I came home my real father threw me in the shower at midnight and proceeded to remove all the stuff from my hair.

When I laid in bed that night at 12:20 AM I fell right asleep. That's my story. I hope you like it. Maybe you want to be an actor too?



Published At Twelve: Lily Greenberg Call

By Jenn C. ■ Age 15 ■ Mid America Mensa

Emily Dickinson. Edgar Allen Poe. Walt Whitman. These are the names of some of the poets that have colored our lives, undoubtedly. But a new face is breaking into the poetry scene, and at twelve years old, Lily Greenberg Call is showing talent far and beyond her age group.

I was privileged enough to have the honor of interviewing this talented young lady on the phone, after reading her astounding book of poetry entitled “The Edge”. The Edge contains over fifty poems penned by Call, who states she’s been writing since she was five.

She says that she didn’t “wake up one day and decide to write poetry.” Lily recalls that the death of a relative is what sparked her interest in writing- she says she was voicing her feelings to her mother, who said, “Wow, Lily, that sounds like a poem.” Ever since then, poetry has played an extremely essential aspect of the young writer’s life.

After winning a contest granting her entry, Lily was reciting at a poetry reading when a publisher approached her. He was starting a new series of poetry books written by kids, and he was interested in Lily and her 9-year-old sister, who already had been published, contributing to the new line. After that, things fell into place.

When asked if she was treated any differently at school, Call laughs a little and says that she attends a very small school, so no one reacts very differently. “Sometimes someone will say, ‘Wait, are you the one with the book?’, but no one really treats me differently” Lily states.

Lily says she’s more inspired by events in her life, or the things surrounding her, versus other poets, but some of her favorite poets are Emily Dickinson, E.E. Cummings, and Shakespeare, after which she states that while she’s not sure if you can really consider Shakespeare a ‘poet’. She’s also interested in theater.

When asked what her favorite poem that she’s written- so far is, Lily replied with an “Oh, gosh, hold on”, followed by a pause as she rustles through her notebook. She then replies that her favorite poem she’s penned is “They Remember”, which she has an inexplicable but strong connection to, according to her.

“They Remember” is a composite of many different fragments of poems Call says she had floating around. In English class, she states they’d read “Life As We Know It” and were in-

structed to write an essay on it. Instead of writing the essay, she took pieces of her own poetry and sewed them together to create a beautiful piece of art.

When asked how her family has supported her, Lily gushes on how her mother, also a writer, is a major support factor for her. “Without her, you know, I wouldn’t be where I am today.”

Finally, to end our interview, I ask Lily what her advice is for young writers who look up to her. She replies, “I think a lot of kids are scared that they’re not good enough, but they are good enough [...] there is no right or wrong in poetry. It’s self-expression.” She continues to suggest going to poetry readings, especially open mic nights, and to submit their work to magazines.

All in all, Lily Greenberg Call is a very inspiring young lady, and we should all most definitely keep her on our radar!



Left: Lily accepts the Creative uRGe Book Award from San Diego Mensa.

Creative Writing

Isabella T. ● age 10 ● Lonestar Mensa

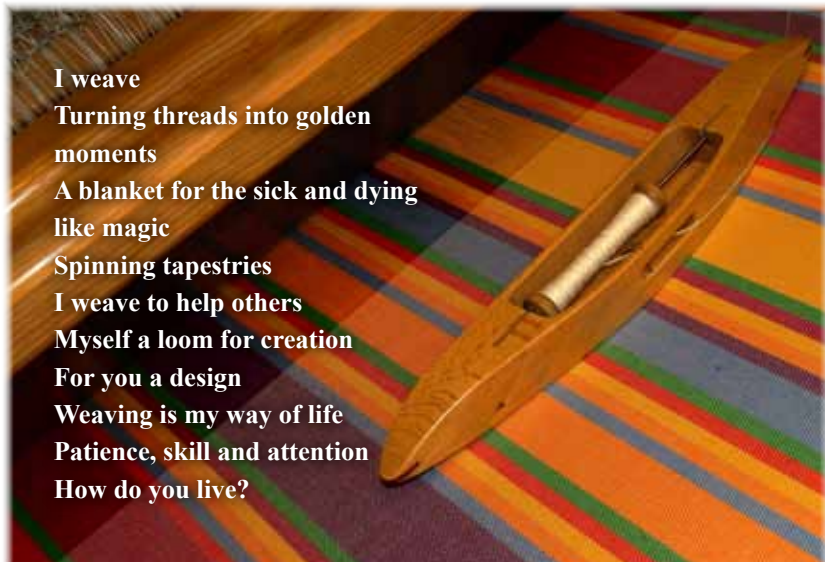
A Thousand Paper Cranes (A Dedication to the People of Japan)



I hope to give you a beam of light
In your clouded suffering
And give you a sunny day
To piece your ruins back together column
by column
A star to show you a shining way
A key to unlock your heart

To pluck the heat from the sun and weave
it into a blanket
And erase the endless past
I wish to give you a poem
Because the words are
A thousand paper cranes reflecting color

The Weaver's Song



I weave
Turning threads into golden
moments
A blanket for the sick and dying
like magic
Spinning tapestries
I weave to help others
Myself a loom for creation
For you a design
Weaving is my way of life
Patience, skill and attention
How do you live?

Ephemera: Trout Lily

Upon the day
you
live
along with the ephemera
in your dark and gloaming
wood
that you brighten
In the gloaming
your stem slenderly arched
in a "U" of uncertainty
of unearthly
transient petals peeled back
as if
afraid to show the world
your abundance
which will last a day
only a day
and facing down from where
you came
Down into the rich nurtur-
ing loam
as you
fall
and
break
and
die
But did it ever even matter?
That you never saw the
sanctum of the sun
or
the trees cloaked in a mossy
green
or
your livid petals floating off
and into
the hair of some child laugh-
ing and spinning
in the air
lips stained with strawberries
that you will never know
but
did it ever matter?
Did you ever matter?

Jokes



It's said that the right to lampoon royalty and politicians, using anagrams, was enshrined in English law, when King John signed the Magna Carta (Anagram Act) in 1215.

Anagrammist n. : one who composes anagrams and when asked for the four points of the compass is likely to reply thorn, shout, seat, and stew.

Before Shakespeare became a writer, he tried to be a sketch artist but had a hard time deciding which pencil to use. It was always the same question: 2b or not 2b.



**WHAT IS SHAKESPEARE'S
FAVORITE FOOD?
GREEN EGGS AND HAMLET**



Did Shakespeare stare at the Queen?

No, it was more of a Lear.



We've all heard that a million monkeys banging on a million typewriters will eventually reproduce the entire works of Shakespeare. Now, thanks to the internet, we know this is not true.

Billy Shakespeare walked into a pub one day and the bartender said: "Oh no! You can't come in here! You're bard!"

*When English Miss told us about how there was a doubt about the identity of the old bard of Avon, we suggested that he might be really a trembling guard with a shaky javelin! She was serious, and looked down upon us. But the good lady did not punish us puny pupils. She wore dark glasses because her pupils were usually bright!
~Kenny Wordsmith (hubpages.com/hub/Riddles-and-Puns)*

From Romeo & Juliet: Ask for me tomorrow, and you shall find me a grave man. (That's a wounded chap speaking.)

Fred's super page of AWESOMENESS

I got the following letter and photos from Catherine Stegemann, a ten-year-old professional actress in Chicago. It's a picture of Catherine playing "Nugget" in "Heddatron." She played a young girl searching for her mother, a Michigan housewife kidnapped by robots and stolen away to the jungles of South America to perform in their robot version of "Hedda Gabler." Some of the "actors" were real robots! That would have been really cool to see.

Cheers,
Fred

I am Catherine Stegemann. I am ten years old. I play the harp, I dance, and I sing. I have two brothers, one older, one younger, and I am homeschooled. I have been in about twenty shows throughout my life and I started acting when I was five. To get the part for Heddatron I auditioned and then I got a callback which is like a second audition. Rehearsing for a professional show was different from any other show I've rehearsed for because all the other people were adults. We rehearsed Sunday through Thursday but I was not always needed. The rehearsals were usually from seven to ten pm but I was only allowed to stay till nine because of my age. The most fun part of the play was probably



Resources

Check out the Anagram Server and their Hall of Fame: wordsmith.org/anagram/hof.html

Greek Postmen Beat Zombies to Win Oddest Book Title: www.reuters.com/article/2008/09/06/us-britain-book-odd-idUSL561858920080906

What did you call me? Find out with the Shakespearean Insult Dictionary www.william-shakespeare.org.uk/shakespeare-insults-dictionary.htm The same site has the Shakespearean Insult Generator, thou creeping hasty-witted varlets!

Surfing the Net for Kids has a whole online newsletter devoted to Shakespeare resources www.surfnetkids.com/william_shakespeare.htm

Shakespeare Kids at the Folger Shakespeare Library: words, puzzles, facts, coloring pages and more! www.folger.edu/template.cfm?cid=588

laits.utexas.edu/shakespearekids/wine-dale This site is for kids new to Shakespeare, kids who already love Shakespeare and anyone eager to get up on their feet and do some Shakespeare themselves! There are also resources for parents and teachers.

getting ready before a performance. I got excited every time! But my character was supposed to be sad so many times I would stand offstage smiling very big so that I could get it out of my system and be ready to be sad and solemn. The hardest part of the play was probably memorizing my lines because I had a lot of them but my mom and my brother helped me. This summer I am doing summer camps at Lookingglass Theatre to practice my acting. I am also going to do an on-camera camp. I just finished the play "James and the Giant Peach" at Lookingglass - I am part of their Young Ensemble Company. And now? I don't know what will be next!

For any kids who would like to become actors I say go for it! Don't be afraid! There are always lots of people around you to help you be the best you can be. Start out with little things like a school play or something like that. And remember, there is no such thing as small parts only small (as in height) actors. :)

This Month's Puzzle!

All About Shakespeare Word Search

Find words!

BARD
BLACKFRIARS
COMEDY
ELIZABETH
FOLGER
GLOBE
HISTORY
IAMBIC
JAMES
PENTAMETER
PLAY
RENAISSANCE
ROMANCE
SHAKESPEARE
SONNET
THEATER
TRAGEDY

X	R	W	J	G	B	P	E	N	T	A	M	E	T	E	R
N	O	Y	R	O	T	S	I	H	S	N	O	M	J	W	E
I	N	R	E	N	A	I	S	S	A	N	C	E	A	G	N
A	L	I	R	C	X	M	D	H	F	O	O	R	M	I	S
M	C	U	F	L	K	E	C	N	A	M	O	R	E	N	E
B	Y	A	L	P	Z	J	O	W	V	L	C	O	S	E	R
I	P	U	B	L	A	C	K	F	R	I	A	R	S	T	A
C	L	K	L	F	U	S	O	V	V	A	K	E	S	Q	E
M	R	L	I	L	W	P	B	A	I	K	C	A	L	S	P
R	A	T	H	E	A	T	E	R	H	L	O	R	E	L	S
A	T	E	N	N	O	S	V	E	I	W	M	O	B	T	E
D	N	B	Z	W	J	L	I	W	L	G	E	Y	O	E	K
R	W	P	D	F	O	L	G	E	R	E	D	O	L	U	A
A	V	A	C	P	C	S	U	D	I	U	Y	P	G	A	H
B	R	H	T	E	B	A	Z	I	L	E	R	R	S	W	S
C	D	S	G	R	T	Y	D	E	G	A	R	T	H	U	U

Courtesy of the Folger Shakespeare Library, folger.edu/kids.

Answers will be revealed in the next issue of **Fred!**