Shakespeare's Birthday

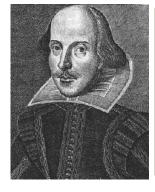


William Shakespeare (1564—1616) was one of the greatest playwrights, actors and poets.

The Painted Room is all that remains of the Crown Tavern which was owned by John Davenant who was a friend of Shakespeare. Shakespeare is said to have stayed there on several occasions and was the godfather to Davenant's son William.







In the 1930s, OPT began a Shakespeare Birthday pageant so that on 23 April each year, University and Town dignitaries would meet at the Lord Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall and parade to the Painted Room where they would raise a toast to the 'immortal bard'. This 'tradition' ceased in the 1960s and was revived in 2013 by OPT.

Shakespeare also wrote many plays including Macbeth. In this play a group of witches make a spell around a cauldron.

Here is an extract from Act VI Scene I:

Double, double toil and trouble; Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.

Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the cauldron boil and bake;
Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,
Adder's fork and blind-worm's sting,
Lizard's leg and owlet's wing,
For a charm of powerful trouble,
Let a hell-broth boil and bubble.





Have a go at writing your own cauldron spell:

- I. Use Shakespeare's format to support your writing, keeping the first two and last two lines the same.
- 2. Think about a selection of animals and what parts of each you might use.
- 3. Try to follow the rhythm of this poem.

Extra challenge: Look at which lines rhyme and try to incorporate this into your cauldron spell.

Illustrate your cauldron spell too.

What is your spell going to do?