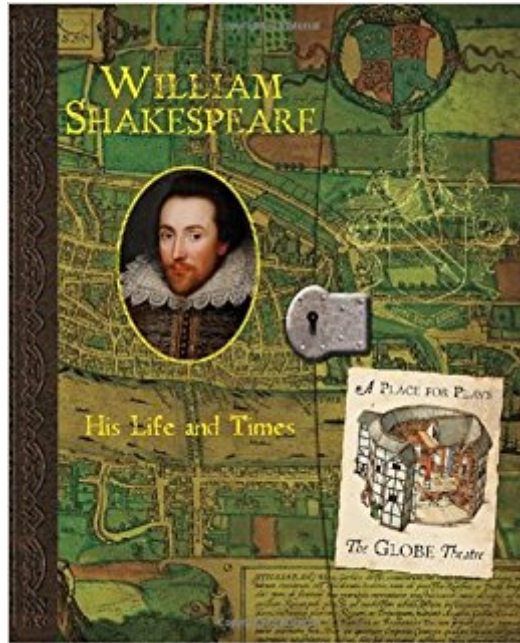


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# William Shakespeare: His Life And Times (Historical Notebooks)



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

Series: Historical Notebooks

Hardcover: 30 pages

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Product Dimensions: 12.1 x 0.7 x 10.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,375,492 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Renaissance](#) #117 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > European](#) #207 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Drama & Theater](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

To appreciate the wonders of this book, you really need more images of the book's interactive interior. There are dozens of goodies inside this large-format 30-page book with a hardback cover that "unlocks" via that skeleton keyhole you see in the middle of the front cover. Quite frankly, this is a terrific gift even for teenagers and adults who are trying to summon the energy to begin exploring Shakespeare's works. The entire book, including dozens of flaps, pockets, envelopes and other fold-out "extras" seems to have been designed by a graphic artist with a taste for the realms of Harry Potter or Lord of the Rings--that kind of historical fantasy. Throughout the book, tiny rose-and-beige-colored "booklets" open from the bigger pages, summarizing the Bard's many plays--always with an eye to entice young readers. Here's a Potter-ish summary of Hamlet in one of these little booklets-within-a-book: "In one of Shakespeare's most famous tragedies, Hamlet, prince

of Denmark, is visited by the ghost of his dead father. The ghost begs Hamlet to avenge his murder by Hamlet's wicked uncle Claudius, who is now the new king and married to Hamlet's mother, Gertrude. Hamlet pretends to be mad to disguise his plot of revenge and stages a play that will make the king reveal his guilt. But Hamlet's beloved, Ophelia, really does go mad after ..." There are a few more sentences in the actual booklet, but you get the point, right? The designers of this book know how to entice young readers these days: Suspense! Ghosts! (Or are the ghosts real?) Murder! Madness! (Or is the madness real?) And wicked adults who must be stopped by the young people in the play! Of course, that's what Shakespeare understood in his own era and why his works were so successful in the first place.

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.

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