

This is the last week before your first set of¹ tests. Are you excited? Probably not. These will be the first tests in our school for the new first and fourth grades. I hope you are not too worried². All you can do is your best. The weather has been quite horrible³ recently⁴. I wonder if it will start to warm up as we head into⁵ June. I would like it to be a little warmer than this but not too hot. And not too humid⁶. I cannot cope with⁷ the humidity that we get in the summer. I could not live in Tokyo!

Something You Don't Know (Shakespeare⁸)

1. Shakespeare was “probably⁹” born on 23rd April 1564 and “probably” died on 23rd April 1616. If you want to know why “probably” then come and ask me.
2. His only granddaughter¹⁰ died childless¹¹ in 1670 so he has no descendants¹².
3. He wrote 37 plays¹³ and 154 sonnets¹⁴, 1.5 plays a year from when he started.
4. He had an enormous¹⁵ vocabulary¹⁶. In his plays he uses 17,677 words and he invented¹⁷ 1,700 of them himself!! Many words we use today (accommodation¹⁸, critical¹⁹, frugal²⁰, generous²¹, hurry²², lonely²³, road²⁴) were invented by Shakespeare!!
5. It is possible²⁵ that he wrote 20 plays that have gone missing²⁶.
6. The RSC²⁷ still sells over half a million tickets a year!



Last Week's Answers



Announcements

A lot of students are away for sports.
There is a Lilac meeting on Thursday.
The 5th grade English Majors have a study abroad meeting on Friday.

News

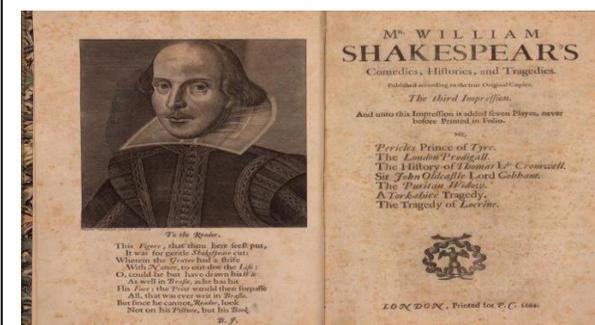
Is this the face of Shakespeare?

Mark Griffiths, a historian²⁸ and botanist²⁹ from England, thinks that he has found a picture of Shakespeare. He found the picture in a 400 year old botany book. There was a hand drawn³⁰ picture of three people and Mr. Griffiths says there were many clues to say one of the portraits³¹ is Shakespeare.



However, many experts³⁵ say it is very unlikely³⁶ that the picture is Shakespeare. The “clues” could mean Shakespeare but they could also mean many other people. Mr. Griffiths seems to be seeing what he wants to see. It would be nice to have a picture of the bard³⁷ but I think we will have to wait.

If he is right it will be a very rare discovery³². There are only two known pictures of Shakespeare and they were both painted a few years after his death. There were probably pictures painted while he was alive but none of them have survived³³. It would be nice to know what such an influential³⁴ person looked like.



- 1.Set of～組の 2.Worry 心配する 3.Horrible ひどく 4.Recently 最近 5.Head into 向かう
6.Humid 蒸し暑い 7.Cope with 対処する 8.Shakespeare シェークスピア 9.Probably 恐らく
10.Granddaughter 孫娘 11.Childless 子供のない 12.Descendant 子孫 13.Play 脚本 14.Sonnet 14行詩
15.Enormous 大きい 16.Vocabulary 語彙数 17.Invent 発明する 18.Accommodation 便宜
19.Critical 批評の 20.Frugal つましい 21.Generous 気前の良い 22.Hurry 急ぐ 23.Lonely 寂しい
24.Road 道 25.Possible 可能性のある 26.Go missing 行方不明になる 27.Royal Shakespeare Company
ロイヤルシェークスピア劇団 28.Historian 歴史学者 29.Botanist 植物学者 30.Hand drawn 手描きの
31.Portrait 肖像 32.Rare discovery たぐいまれな発見 33.Survive 残る 34.Influential 影響力の大きい
35.Expert 専門家 36.Unlikely 可能性のない