

# HORIZON

Khordad 1400

*William Shakespeare*





# Our Horizon

by: **Fateme Razaghi**, Bachelor student of English language and literature

**H**orizon is a journal which is the result of the cooperation and efforts of the English Language and literature Scientific Community of Semnan University and a number of students from different fields. In this section, we want to introduce Horizon to you. First, we will take a look at the meaning and origin of the Horizon and then explain why we chose this name.

## **Where does it come from (origin) and what does it mean?**

The horizon is the apparent line that separates earth from sky, the line that divides all viewing directions based on whether it intersects the Earth's surface or not. The true horizon is actually a theoretical line, which can only be observed when it lies on the sea surface.

At many locations, this line is obscured by land, trees, buildings, mountains, etc., and the resulting intersection of earth and sky is called the visible horizon.

## **"Horizon" Meanings**

1. the line at which the earth's surface and the sky appear to meet.  
the circular boundary of the part of the earth's surface visible from a particular point, ignoring irregularities and obstructions.
2. A great circle of the celestial sphere, the plane of which passes through the centre of the earth and is parallel to that of the apparent horizon of a place.
3. the limit of a person's knowledge, experience, or interest.
4. [GEOLOGY] a layer of soil or rock, or



a set of strata, with particular characteristics.

5. [ARCHAEOLOGY] level of an excavated site representing a particular period.

### Why horizon?

So now that we know everything about horizon, we can move on to a million-dollar question, why did we choose this word as a name for this journal? Why horizon?

In this grade, we have talked to a person who first came up with this name, our journal's editor in chief Ms. "Sanaz Najafian"

**Me:** First thank you very much for accepting this interview with me. So I want to go directly to the point. Can you tell us about the idea of the horizon? In fact, how did this idea come to your mind?

**Ms. Najafian:** To be honest, first we wanted to choose sunrise as a name, but then this word came to my mind. I mentioned it to the others, and I told them my reasons and they accepted it.

**Me:** Can you tell us about your reasons?

**Ms. Najafian:** Yeah sure. You know, sunrise, sunset, even the sun always makes me feel good. How can I say that? It gave me a sense of stability, a sense of power.

**Me:** So why not sunrise or sunset? Why just the horizon?

**Ms. Najafian:** As you know, one of the meanings of the horizon is insight and field of vision. In this journal, we try to help people to spread their insight by sharing literary and cultural content

and introducing the best and superior books and movies in the world.

**Me:** So is this supposed to be just about literature, books, and movies?

**Ms. Najafian:** Of course not. We have many programs where literature and film introductions are only a small part

of it. This magazine is supposed to be suitable for all ages and all tastes.

**Me:** Sounds interesting. So as the last question, what would you say if you wanted to introduce the Horizon to us in one sentence?

**Ms. Najafian:** "Horizon will change your vision of life."

**Me:** That's a good introduction. Thanks again for being with us in this interview. I hope to see you and Horizon always at the top.

**Ms. Najafian:** With your help and all the people who are working for Horizon to be the best, I am sure that being on top is not a big deal.

**"Horizon will  
change your  
vision of life."**

### Last words

Thank you for being with us and I hope you enjoy reading Horizon and continue to support us. Waite for so many surprises that we planned for you!

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# Die Luft der Freiheit weht!

by: **Zahra Shokrollahi**, *Master student of teaching the English language*

**QS World University Rankings: 2**

**Status: Private**

**Research Output: Very High**

**Student/Faculty Ratio: 4**

**Total students: 16,135**

**International Students: 3,665**

**Total Faculty staff: 4,478**

**International staff: 2,166**

**Domestic staff: 2,312**

Stanford University's official seal contains the German words, "Die Luft der Freiheit weht", which interprets as "the wind of freedom blows". Stanford University, which is located in Stanford, California, was founded in 1885 by Senator Leland Stanford and his wife, Jane, in memory of their only child, who died of typhoid fever at 15.

This university is regularly ranked among the top three universities in the world. According to the latest QS University Ranking, this university is ranked 2nd in 2021 (QS World University Rankings 2021). Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) also ranked Stanford second in 2020 (Academic Ranking of World Universities 2020).

Furthermore, Stanford is one of the top three most selective schools in the United States, with an acceptance rate of 4.7 percent in 2018 (QS World University Rankings).

Stanford has more than 16000 students, 2180 faculties, and 1800 post-doctoral scholars. It is an international institution, enrolling students from all 50 U.S. states and more than 90 other countries. It is attention-grabbing to point that it is also an athletics powerhouse, with 900 current student-athletes and a history of 137 national championships and 23 consecutive Directors' Cups, awarded to the top intercollegiate athletics program in the nation (Stanford University).



Stanford University has one of the largest university campuses in the US, with 8180 acres, 18 interdisciplinary research institutes, and seven schools: The Graduate School of Business; School of Earth, Energy & Environmental Sciences; Graduate School of Education; School of Engineering; School of Humanities and Sciences; Law School and School of Medicine (QS World University. Stanford University).

Stanford has brought about 19 Nobel laureates within its community over the years like Paul Milgrom (2020) and Thomas Südhof (2013). Moreover, Mohammad Reza Aref, Simin Dāneshvar, Omid Kordestani, and Vartan Gregorian are some well-known Iranians who graduated from Stanford University (Stanford University).

This university provides loans, savings, or other personal assets for those whose funding does not cover all of their costs to meet their educational expenses (about Stanford). There is a piece of information labeled on the university's website "Montag Hall is currently closed and staff is working remotely. We remain dedicated to helping you navigate the financial aid process. Our Contact Us page provides several methods for you to reach us "which conveys that the university keeps providing services during the pandemic as well (financial aid). Besides the university's location, the first-class services it provides make it an attractive proposition to the vast majority of students around the world.

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# Tradita innovate innovate trader!

by: **Zahra Shokrollahi**, *Master student of teaching the English language*

**QS World University Rankings: 202**

**Status: Public**

**Research Output: Very High**

**Student/Faculty Ratio: 7**

**International Students: 5,438**

**Total Faculty: 2,850**

**Total students: 19,782**

**International students: 5,438**

**Total faculty staff: 2,850**

**International staff: 946**

**Domestic staff: 1904**

The university motto is “Tradita innovate innovate trader” which means “Renew our heritage and pass it on renewed” in English. The University of Gothenburg as one of the largest universities in the Nordic countries was established in 1891 in Gothenburg, Sweden. This university is the third-oldest of the current Swedish universities with 37000 students and 6000 staff members along with a university website (Facts and Figures).

The University of Gothenburg is one of the uppermost public universities in Sweden and is generally ranked 150-250 among the top universities around

the world (World University Rankings 2021. QS Global World Rankings 2021). The university is usually positioned among the world's best for life sciences and medicine. Due to the international contacts and collaborative projects with partners abroad, the university has been continuously strengthened and intensified over recent years in terms of trade and industry.

Gothenburg University is made up of several University-wide staff positions, units, and bodies that support the University Management and the organization in different matters. The University Board is the highest decision-making





body and consists of 15 people and supervises all components. The University's fundamental activities, i.e. research and education, are organized and run by its eight faculties, which comprise 38 departments, and by its nearly 30 centers of expertise and research. The university's academic faculties encompass the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts; the Faculty of Arts; the IT Faculty; the Faculty of Education; the Faculty of Science; the Faculty of Social Sciences; the Sahlgrenska Academy; and the School of Business, Economics and Law (Organization).

In 2018, the university declared that a student satisfaction survey was done to

measure the quality of the education, university services, and life of the students in Gothenburg. Consequently, 92% of the respondents stated that they were happy or very happy with their conditions and 82% of the respondents would recommend the University to others (Ranking and Recognition).

The University of Gothenburg welcomes international researchers and provides a wide range of support services for them, such as finding funding, career advice, and guidance for new principal investigators, in addition to the temporary accommodation, information seminars, and social activities for the whole family (Services for Researchers).

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# Five handy websites for English Literature Students

by: **Negin Rezaee**, Bachelor student of English language and literature



[www.IDOCEonline.com](http://www.IDOCEonline.com)

LDOCE Online offers you free access to a range of Longman monolingual and bilingual dictionaries that are specifically designed for learners and teachers of English, and for people who need to use English as a second language at work. Their dictionaries have integrated thesaurus, collocations, and important grammar information. Interactive vocabulary and grammar exercises help you learn synonyms, collocations, and idioms, as well as grammar at intermediate and advanced levels.



[www.Scribbr.com](http://www.Scribbr.com)

A resource provider website for students with a captivating design and easy-to-use layout. This site provides you with APL and MLA handbook guides as well as tips to improve your writing skills. Alongside the items mentioned, there is a paid system with a variety of editors to help you proofread your papers by real-life editors as a student. Their plagiarism and citation tools are also a great help for students who constantly work with resources.





[www.Grammarly.com](http://www.Grammarly.com)

Grammarly is a product that helps you to improve and strengthen your grammar skills in writing your papers, essays, reviews, and even emails. This proofreading system assists you in writing different topics and guides you throughout your journey of becoming a veteran in writing smoothly and clearly. The online features on the app and the website are free to an extent, which are great in their own way. However, if you need an advanced system to pick up your mistakes strictly but wisely and you are willing to pay for it, then Grammarly is exactly what you want. This product is supported by various operating systems as well; from applications for Android and iPhone or your computers such as Windows and Mac to browser extensions and their designated special keyboard for your cell phones. Additionally, you can download their extension to add it to Microsoft Word to keep a close eye on your texts in terms of grammar and context clarity.



[www.Shakespeare-online.com](http://www.Shakespeare-online.com)

In 1999 Amanda launched Shakespeare Online with hopes of providing free, original, and accurate information on Shakespeare to students, teachers, and Shakespeare enthusiasts. Microsoft has listed Shakespeare Online as one of the top 10 Internet sites for students as well. According to what I have picked up from exploring this website, there are topics such as his plays and analysis, his contributions to English Literature, quotations, and all the words he introduced to English that are listed in the contents of the website to provide easy access for users.

## **Breaking News English**

[www.Breakingnewsenglish.com](http://www.Breakingnewsenglish.com)

as English learners, we have all been recommended to listen to the news by our teachers if we want to be more fluent. Breaking news English is a website that provides teachers and self-learners with news-based materials. The good thing about this site is that all the lessons are completely free. Yes, absolutely no payments. It includes lessons, printable exercises for classroom usages, and downloadable content in the form of PDF.





# Language and Culture Correlation

by: **Zahra Shokrollahi**, *Master student of teaching the English language*

**H**ave you ever tried to learn a new language by yourself? If so, have you ever paid attention to the role of culture in this procedure?

As a point of fact, coping with the process of comprehending a new language takes a lot of time so that you will not be able to decide about learning some other ones. As mentioned in many authoritative articles, learning a new language offers students great practical possibilities which are almost known among a large population of people. In its simplest form, language provides people to express their manifold thoughts and distinctive feelings by broadening their horizon of thinking, enables bilinguals to communicate with others, and also to share their knowledge and information with other mortals. Language affects

our perception of humanity and the environment of existence, plus how we interact with the world. In this respect, the National Center for Cultural Competence revealed the following definition for culture:

*“An integrated pattern of human behavior that includes thoughts, communications, languages, practices, beliefs, values, customs, courtesies, rituals, manners of interacting, roles, relationships, and expected behaviors of a racial, ethnic, religious, or social group; the ability to transmit the above to succeeding generations; is dynamic by nature.”*

Unless you recognize and know the culture of a country, you cannot fully master its language. At the same time, you



are not able to learn culture if you do not immerse yourself in the study and features of that specific language. Although myriad groups of people came to deem that knowing a culture does not seem to be remarkable in learning, every language largely depends on the views, values, and customs of its population. By learning a second language, bilinguals gain access to a second culture, enabling themselves to learn about, participate in, and potentially identify with that culture (Tong and Cheung 55-69). To gain knowledge of a particular language, you should also understand and grasp the culture of the people who speak that language. These two subjects are deeply interrelated that no one can gain all the details about one of them without considering the other. Familiarity with various cultures helps you start mastering languages with new insights, gives you a deeper cognition of the meaning of vocabulary and terms, along, helps you in interacting more facilely and better with others.

As Thanasoulas (2001) points out, it should be reiterated that language teaching is culture teaching, and someone involved in teaching language is also involved in teaching culture at the same time. It is noteworthy to mention that getting involved in the process of learning needs an expansive volume of information related to the culture of that community. One of the most admirable reasons for this claim is that without knowing about the people of that society, you will not approach this opportunity to talk to them. Learners, lacking insights about the target culture, have difficulty associating these situations with real people (Kitao, 2000). Therefore, learners may think that they are studying the language of some fictional people. However, learners learn concrete facts more easily than abstract ones; if they know that they are dealing with a genuine and not virtual reality, that they are studying a language spoken by real people, then studying the language will become much easier.

The need for cultural literacy in ELT arises mainly from the fact that most language learners, not exposed to cultural elements of the society in question, seem to encounter significant hardship in communicating meaning to native speakers (Bada 101). Mastering a language is more than the ability



to manipulate syntax and lexicon. The language learner should be accomplished enough to communicate with a person of that specific language and the key to that capability is to master the target culture as well as the language.

One of the points of the trenchant correlation between these two topics is that acquiring knowledge of the languages that are used in culture may give bilinguals increased access to that culture (Tong and Cheung 55–69). That is, by knowing these languages, bilinguals will be able to learn about cultural practices through receptive media, like watching television, listening to the radio, social media and reading newspapers, magazines, and books, as well as through verbal interactions with friends, family, and other members of the cultural group. Moreover, linguistic knowledge enables bilinguals to directly engage in the culture's practices, including religious, artistic, medical, dietary, and political activities. By learning about and participating in culture via language use, bilinguals may come to identify more with the culture (or potentially less with the culture, depending on their perspective of the culture's beliefs and practices) (Brown 1–16).

As previously mentioned, the concept of culture has always been a concern in language teaching and learning. In this regard, the study *Culture in Language Learning and Teaching* was conducted by the ELT Department of Çukurova University in Turkey on 38 ELT students. The students were assigned to answer a five-item questionnaire about the cultural class they attended during one semester. The findings suggest that learning about the target culture raises the cultural awareness of both native and target language in learners, enhances their communicative competence in L2, and significantly improves their four skills in the target language. Alongside the effects on learners, it improves the teaching ability in terms of providing genuine grammatical examples and background knowledge about the target culture.

Although the overlapping connection between language and culture has been verified by many experts in years, some concerns of negative aspects of teaching culture still exist.





In studies, it is observed that a kind of transformation occurs in students who have been exposed to the C2 (L2 culture) knowledge in terms of their attitudes towards life in general. In other words, gaining cultural knowledge of L2 influences cultural identification in bilinguals. For example, language proficiency is correlated with the degree of cultural affiliation (Ellinger 2000; Gatbonton and Trofimovich 2008) i.e. increased L2 proficiency is often linked to stronger affiliation with the L2 culture and occasionally affiliation with the L1 culture. Therefore, acquisition of a second language can affect how bilinguals relate to their first-language culture, sometimes decreasing affiliation with the first-language culture.

Briefly, to conclude regarding various studies, there is an interrelating connection between culture and language and culture teaching is an inevitable factor in mastering a specific language. To be able to identify the target culture, feel the reality of the native people, adequately interact with the native speakers of that language and be able to be in touch with more authentic materials, including culture teaching in language teaching is desired. Accordingly, a large number of schools around the world have comprised more or less cultural components in their curriculum.



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# Paulo Coelho

## an alchemist of words

by: **Fatemeh Taheri**, Bachelor student of English language and literature

Throughout history, the style of writing has changed dramatically. These days, many contemporary authors have developed old styles. They also seek to improve the process of extending a written statement and the principles of writing history. One of the most populated authors who have an admirable ability and trenchant talent in the field of writing is named Paulo Coelho de Souza. He was born on 24 August 1947 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Equally important, some of his followers esteem him to be an alchemist of words, while some others consider him a popular phenomenon. In any case, Coelho is one of the most influential writers of the present century. The specific notions, thoughts, world views, and philosophies as well as such central themes in his works have influenced the minds of a large proportion of the population who seek to find their own and new ways of understanding the world. It is noteworthy to mention that he has faced myriad vicissitudes of life that none of them could stop him from continuing his efforts to achieve what he desired to gain. Paulo possessed his soul in patience in the formidable atmosphere he used to live in, and then consequently he got power over all of them.

The writing style of this contemporary writer has

remained quite constant over time and has only defined a certain style. A simple poetic style of writing can be detected in every work of him. The essence of these materials is not from one particular culture, religious thought, or mystical view. On the contrary, they come from various cultures and beliefs, both in the East and in the West. This has led his critics to observe the contradiction between the themes and views expressed in his literary works as a remarkable weakness. Nevertheless, he still has special disciples around the world that enthusiasts people who follow Paulo's works eagerly. Notably, this author has so far been able to influence distinctive people deeply from completely varied societies who are individually different. Moreover, this prolific author has written numerous literary works which are highly recommended for different age groups, such as *The Alchemist*, *The Winner Stands Alone*, *The Devil and Miss Prym*, *Eleven Minutes*, *The Spy*, *Adultery*, *Brida*, *By the River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept*, *The Fifth Mountain*, *Veronika Decides to Die*, *Like the Flowing River*. Therefore, if you are willing to read some new awesome literary works from such contemporary authors, consider Paulo Coelho as one of the best authors who can improve you with several incisive points of life which need to be known in every part of living.

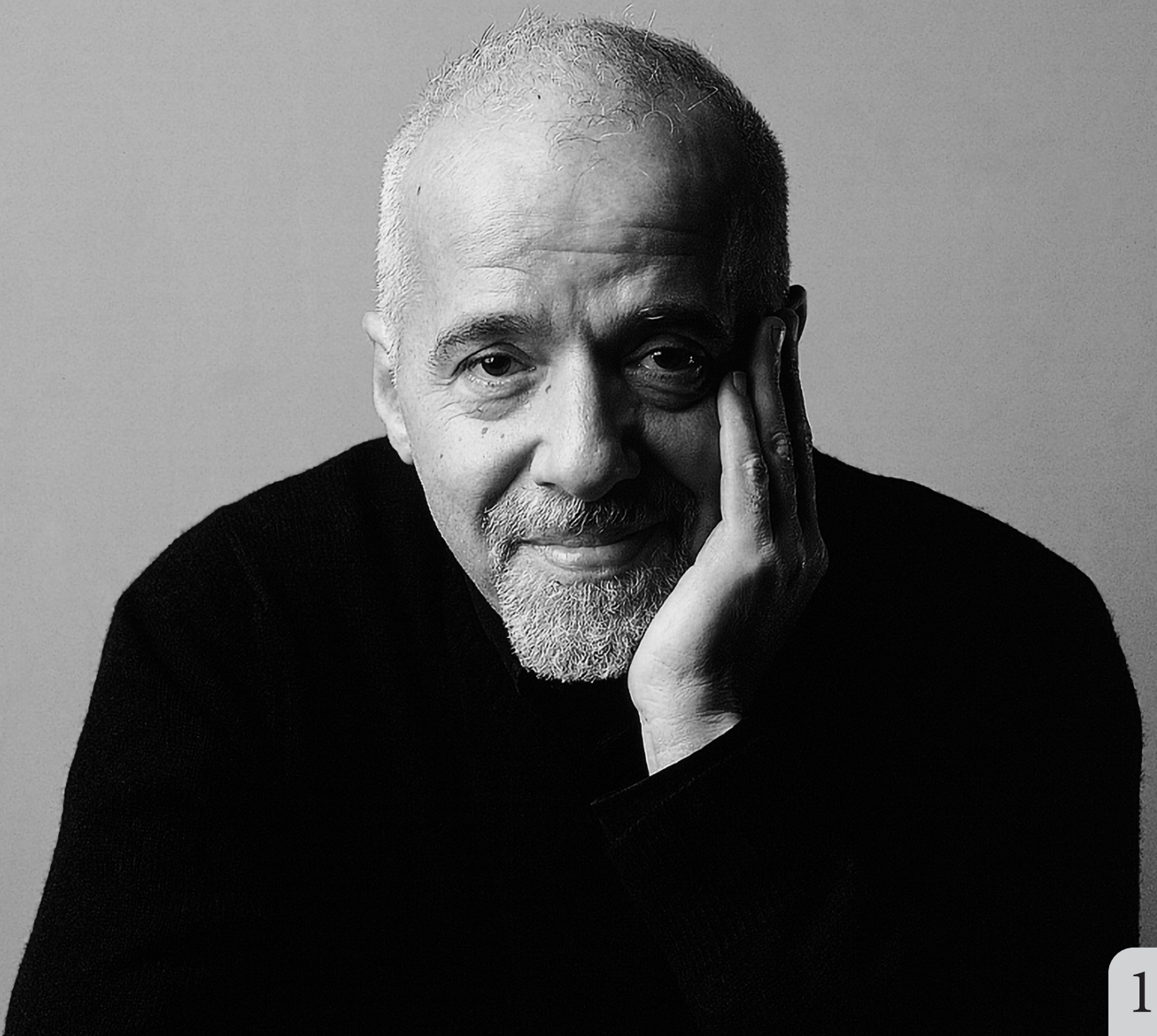




**When you want something,  
all the universe  
conspires in helping you  
to achieve it.**

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*Paulo Coelho, The Alchemist*



# William Shakespeare

## Bard of Avon

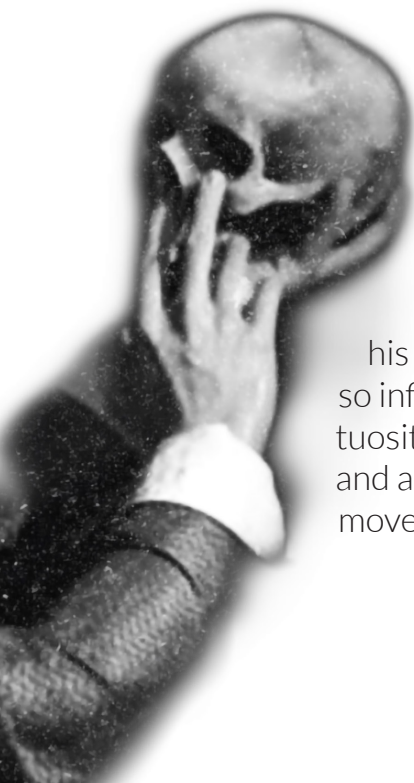
by: **Fatemeh Taheri**, Bachelor student of English language and literature

No matter how passionately we concentrate on contemporary works of literature, poring over manifold examples of modern literary production during our day-to-day existence yet can be perceived the lack of subtlety and elegance of literary works in history. One of the most successful and prominent English authors, poets, playwrights, and theater actors was William Shakespeare (26 April 1564 – 23 April 1616) who was born in Stratford upon-Avon, Warwickshire, England. As a prolific author, he admired all of his passion to be what he meant to be. Therefore, nothing would overcome William's adorable enthusiasm for extensive literature. At the time of his adolescence, due to the slump in his father's job, he was compelled to drop out of school to gain his family's livelihood. Even though he

became a butcher's apprentice to make his bread and butter, he was so interested in literature that he used to give speeches and write poems when killing calves. After his marriage, he became so influenced by the virtuosity of itinerant actors and actresses. Thus he moved out of his domicile

and proceeded towards London alone to achieve success along with later to provide a more prosperous life for his small family. Despite all the difficulties which were trying to restrict this indefatigable soul, William never felt utter despair. This shows the fact that coping with the myriad of troubles was one of his outstanding characteristics. He died at the age of fifty-two on April 23, 1616. His body was buried two days later in Trinity Church.

William Shakespeare is considered the father of English playwriting. He had chosen the subject matter of most of his plays from the history of ancient Rome and a famous book named Plutarch. Besides, he had turned them into the most beautiful, exquisite tragedies by using the power of imagination. The style of William Shakespeare's writing belongs to the ideology of classicism. His role in English literature is known conspicuous and admirable that he is esteemed equal to Ferdowsi in Persian poetry and Homer in Latin. William Shakespeare himself added about 1,700 words to English vocabulary that are still used in English by the majority of native speakers. He has 39 plays, 154 lyric poems, and two long poems in his literary occupation. Therefore, this statistic makes him the most extraordinarily prolific author of the century. All of his literary works are summarized in four parts: comedy,





history, tragedy, and poetry. Due to the massive amount of literary works of this author, some of the best literary cases are mentioned here:

Comedy	History	Tragedy	Poetry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-As You Like It</li> <li>-The Comedy of Errors</li> <li>-Cymbeline</li> <li>- Love's Labour's Lost</li> <li>-Measure for Measure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Henry IV, part 1</li> <li>-Henry IV, part 2</li> <li>-Henry V</li> <li>-Henry VI, part 1</li> <li>-Henry VI, part 2</li> <li>-Henry VI, part 3</li> <li>-Henry VIII</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Romeo and Juliet</li> <li>- Antony and Cleopatra</li> <li>-Coriolanus</li> <li>-Hamlet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The Sonnets</li> <li>- Venus and Adonis</li> <li>- A Lover's Complaint</li> </ul>

To be sure, one of his most remarkable literary works is Romeo and Juliet, which is described to be “a play about the conflict between the main characters’ love, with its transformative power, and the darkness, hatred, and selfishness represented by their families’ feud. Throughout the play, the lovers’ powerful desires directly clash with their families’ equally powerful hatred of each other. Initially, we may expect that the lovers will prove the unifying force that unites the families. Were the play a

comedy, the families would see the light of reason and resolve their feud, Romeo and Juliet would have a public wedding, and everyone would live happily ever after. But the Montague-Capulet feud is too powerful for the lovers to overcome. The world of the play is an imperfect place, where freedom from everything except pure love is an unrealistic goal. Ultimately, the characters’ love does resolve the feud, but at the price of their lives.”(Sparknotes Editors). It is unbelievable the imagination power of the



author to illustrate such breathtaking scenes. Even though every act of this full-bodied play shows off all the individual literary meaning which is related to some parts of it, there must be several main points that are laid in the depth of Shakespeare's lofty play. "At the end of the play, both characters openly defy the rules of their families and society at large to pursue their love. For instance, Juliet finds herself in a difficult situation after rebelling against her father and, by extension, against the patriarchal authority vested in him. Her act of rebellion involves a double betrayal. Not

only does she refuse to marry the man her father's preferred suitor, Paris, but she also marries the son of her father's sworn enemy, Montague. After Romeo's banishment, Juliet disobeys her father yet again by faking her death, thereby evading marriage to Paris once and for all." These claims come to clarify the fact that who might be the real protagonist during the events related to the play. (Sparknotes Editors). As a result, there would be many other incisive details that need to be identified by enthusiast readers.

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**To be,  
or not to be,  
that is  
the question.**

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*William Shakespeare,  
Hamlet*

