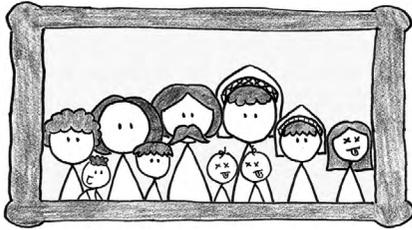


# Shakespeare's New Place

## Teacher's Booklet

### Answers



The Shakespeare family: William with his parents, brothers and sisters.



Be part of Shakespeare Week and register at [www.shakespeareweek.org](http://www.shakespeareweek.org)



Registered Charity Number 209302



Let your pupils be detectives and learn what life would have been like for the people who lived in this house.

[www.shakespeare.org.uk](http://www.shakespeare.org.uk)



Let your pupils be detectives

## Shakespeare's New Place

The questions in the booklet vary in difficulty and are designed to involve the children in thinking more deeply about what they are seeing as well as realising what life would have been like for the people living in the house. Ideally children should be in small groups to allow them to move around the house more easily. Groups could be divided so some visit the garden areas first while others visit the exhibition and then they can swap.



The Gatehouse at New Place as it originally looked

Candlesticks were made to carry candles but what were the candles made from? **Tallow (animal fat) or the best candles were made from beeswax.**

Look in the Family Wedding drawer:

Brooches were often given as love tokens. What does the inscription say on the brooch? **Love conquers all.**

**DON'T FORGET TO LOOK THROUGH THE PEEP HOLES.**

### Go upstairs to the other exhibition area

**Go out to the viewing platform.**

Notice the shapes in the Knot Garden as well as looking at the general site of New Place.

**Watch the video.**

How much did Shakespeare pay to purchase New Place? **£120**

When was the Globe Theatre built? **1599**

How were herbs and flowers used for family celebrations?

**Some of the herbs and flowers were used in the dishes. A posy to decorate the table.**

**Find the display about Shakespeare's Death and Will.**

**Amazing Fact – the gold seal ring bears the initials 'WS' and dates to about 1600. It was found in 1810 near the grounds of Holy Trinity Church. It is believed Shakespeare had lost his ring as he did not use it when he made an amendment to his will. He signed it instead. Could this be Shakespeare's lost ring?**

**Look out for 'WS' elsewhere on the site... Or have you already seen it?**

**In the centre of the Knot Garden.**

Look at the items left to people in Shakespeare's will. If he had left you something in his will, which of the items would you have liked to have and why?

**Silver gilt bowl, sword, plate, pewter spoon, money for a memorial ring, gold coins.**

Why didn't Shakespeare leave his son, Hamnet, anything in his will?

**Hamnet was Judith's twin brother. He died in 1596 aged 11 yrs.**

### Family Activities Room

Want a challenge?... use the building blocks to see if you can recreate Shakespeare's New Place.

## a The Gatehouse

**Amazing fact – on the ground floor of the Gatehouse were four chambers to provide the servants with accommodation. A central staircase led up to a long gallery. The five roof gables provided extra light for the long gallery.**

Look in the Commuting To and From London drawer:

Shakespeare would have carried the 'tools of his trade' with him when he travelled. There is a replica example in the drawer. What is it? **A penner – usually made of leather containing a quill and ink.**

How long do you think it would have taken him to travel to London? Not sure... you can guess, but you can also check your answer upstairs when you listen to the presentation video. **4 days on horseback.**

## b The Service Range

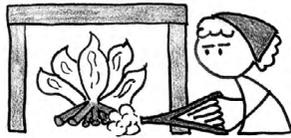
**Amazing fact – this consisted of a small kitchen for the final preparation of food (the main cookhouse would be separate because of the risk of fire), a bread oven as well as a brewery.**

Look in the Social Life drawer:

What are the two different materials used to make the drinking vessels? **Glass and pewter.**

Look in the Food and Drink drawer:

What is the apple corer made from? **Carved bone.**



## c The Hall – The Heart of the Home

**Amazing fact – this was where Shakespeare lived with his family and where he wrote many of his famous plays e.g. *Julius Caesar*, *Hamlet*, *The Tempest*.**

Look in the Home Entertainment drawer:

Name two materials marbles were made from? **Stone, glass or clay.**

Look in the Writing at Home drawer:

Why are there holes around the rim of the inkwell? **To hold the quills.**

## Outside the Gatehouse

I was granted to John Shakespeare in 1596. What am I? (Hint: look up)

**A coat of arms.**

## The Golden Garden

**Amazing Fact – As you walk through this area you are walking in the footsteps of Shakespeare. Archaeological evidence (clues) has helped us locate the buildings of New Place – the Gatehouse, the Service Range and the house where he lived with his family.**

Explore the area:

Find the bronze lines to see where the original buildings were built.

Find the pennants (flags). They are the names of Shakespeare's plays. Write down the names of any plays you recognise. Not heard of any? ... do not worry ... instead look at the names of the plays and choose your favourite title.

Which key feature still exists that the Shakespeare household would have used?

**A well – fresh water supply for the household.**

Find the artist's version of Shakespeare's Chair and Desk. You may like to sit in it and look across at the Guild Chapel and Falcon public house... Shakespeare would have seen these buildings when he lived at New Place.

William would have written his plays using a quill.



## The Knot Garden

**Amazing Fact – Knot Gardens were used by wealthy people to decorate their gardens. The symmetrical patterns were made from low hedges of hyssop or thyme and the spaces were filled with herbs and flowers.**



Tudor knot garden

Do you think Shakespeare would have used his land for a Knot Garden? Could he have used it for anything else?

Unlikely that Shakespeare would have a Knot Garden, as he needed the land to supply food and grazing for his livestock.

What is in the centre of the Knot Garden? Puzzled?? You can find out more about this when you visit the exhibition on the upper floor.

A large replica of Shakespeare's gold seal from his signet ring. Seals were often used instead of signatures and were pressed into wax hence the WS would be the 'wrong way round' on the ring.

## The Great Garden

**Amazing Fact – In Shakespeare's time this land was used for growing fruit, vegetables and herbs. There were two barns to store grain and malt (used in brewing beer) and there were stables for horses. The family also kept chickens, cows and pigs.**

Explore the Great Garden...

What type of tree has its branches supported?

A mulberry tree. James I had a garden of mulberry trees planted in an effort to start an English silk industry. The silkworms mainly eat leaves from the white mulberry and unfortunately James I planted red/black mulberry trees.

Look at the sculptures by the American Greg Wyatt. Which is your favourite sculpture and explain why you have chosen it.

Can you find the 'sound machine'? (Hint : Look in the yew hedge) Turn to number 8 and imagine you are back in the late 16th century as you hear the various sounds.

Ducks, chickens, pigs etc.

## Ground Floor Exhibition

**Amazing Fact – You are standing in the house, that was built in about 1530, next door to New Place. Known today as Nash House, it was once owned by Thomas Nash, who married Shakespeare's granddaughter, Elizabeth Hall, in 1626.**



William and family

### Find the Timeline...

Choose any two dates concerning the life of Shakespeare between when he was born in 1564 in Stratford until 1616 when he died and left New Place to his elder daughter Susanna Hall. Be prepared to explain to your teacher why you have chosen these dates.

Find out what happened to New Place after his death. Use these dates to help you: 1649, 1670, 1702, 1759, 1891.

1649 – Susanna died and the house passed to her daughter Elizabeth who had recently married John Bernard. The couple lived in Northamptonshire so the house was let to tenants.

1670 – Elizabeth, the last direct heir, died and her husband died in 1675.

1702 – Sir John Clopton, the new owner, demolished New Place and built a more modern house also called New Place.

1759 – The Rev. Francis Gastrell unhappy with 'tourists' and increases in taxes demolished New Place completely and left Stratford.

1891 – The Shakespeare Trust acquires New Place, The Great Garden and Nash's House.

### Living at New Place – watch the video

We don't know what it looked like from inside the house but with the help of archaeology we have discovered the layout of the buildings and the fact it is likely to have had 20 rooms and ten fireplaces.

**Turn around and explore the three sections of the white model of New Place: the Gatehouse, the Service Range and the Hall. There are drawers in the model. Each drawer has a title and contains various objects showing life at New Place.**