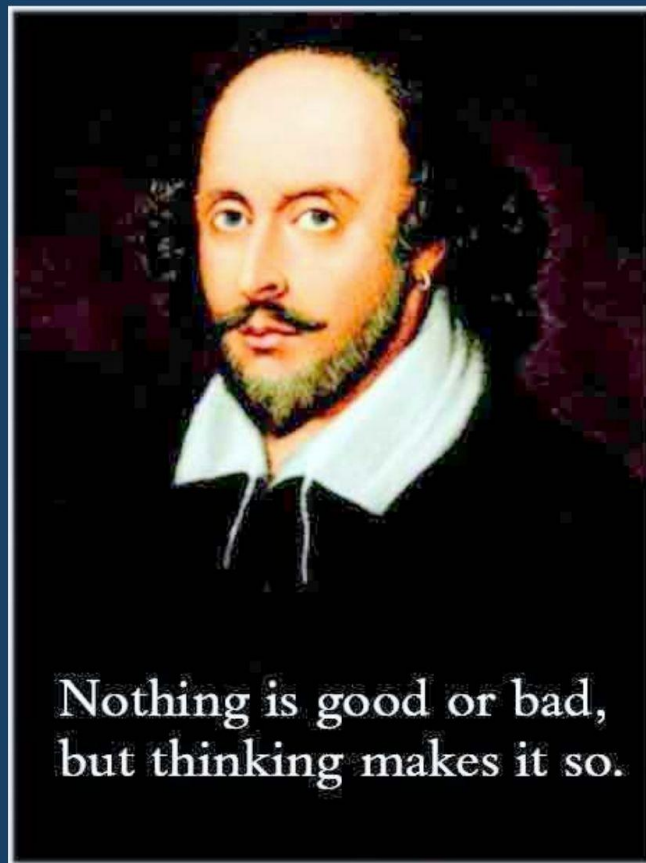


Azad Hind Fouz Smriti Mahavidyalaya
Domjur, Howrah



Department of English
in collaboration with IQAC celebrates
“**World English Day**”
through an Online Quiz Contest



ONLINE

23 April 2024
8:15 PM

Azad Hind Fouz Smriti Mahavidyalaya
Domjur, Howrah

The English language is one of the most popular languages spoken all around the world – the *lingua franca* – “world language” of the modern world. It is one of the six official languages of the United Nations, the others being: Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish. World English Day is celebrated annually on April 23 to observe both the birth and death anniversary of English playwright and poet, **William Shakespeare**. It also coincides with World Book and Copyright Day. World English Day was observed for the first time by the United Nations in 2010 to promote multilingualism and cultural diversity, as well as to celebrate the importance of English language in the world.

The theme of **World English Day 2024** is “Using technology for Multilingual Learning: Challenges and Opportunities”.

The history of the English language can be traced back to the migration of Germanic tribes, such as the **Angles, Saxons and Jutes**, to the British Isles in the 5th and 6th centuries. The term “**Anglo-Saxon**” refers to the Germanic tribes and their language and culture. The Germanic tribes spoke a group of related languages that evolved into Old English. The Vikings arrived in the British Isles during the 8th and 9th centuries and left a significant impact on English history. The Norman Conquest of the 11th century brought French-speaking Normans to England who introduced French words into the English language. This period saw a fusion of Anglo-Saxon English and Norman French, giving rise to the unique Middle English as found in the works of **Geoffrey Chaucer** who is often regarded as the ‘Father of English Language and Literature’. The Renaissance period i.e. 14th to 17th centuries saw a growing interest in classics of ancient Greece and Rome which influenced English language and literature. The expansion of the British Empire in the 17th to 20th centuries spread the English language across the world making it a global language. English was enriched by adopting words from various languages as it came in contact with different cultures. The rise of industrialization and technological advancements of the late 19th and early 20th centuries led to further changes in the English language with the emergence of new terms related to science, technology and the modern world.

William Shakespeare is a poet, dramatist and an actor who has a unique position in world literature. Shakespeare's plays, written in the late 16th and early 17th centuries, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, are performed and read in more countries than ever before. The reason of Shakespeare's popularity is the portrayal of people and their complete range of emotions. Shakespeare has survived translation into other languages and into cultures remote from that of Elizabethan England. The prophecy of his contemporary, the poet and dramatist Ben Jonson, that Shakespeare "was not of an age, but for all time," has been fulfilled.

William Shakespeare was born in **Stratford-upon-Avon**, Warwickshire, England. The register of the Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-upon-Avon shows that he was baptized on April 26, 1564; his birthday is traditionally celebrated on April 23.



William Shakespeare's father, John Shakespeare, was a tradesman who faced financial difficulties. His wife, Mary Arden, William Shakespeare's mother, was the heiress to some land. Shakespeare probably attended the free grammar school at Stratford as a boy, though he did not attend any university. Instead, at age eighteen Shakespeare married **Anne Hathaway**, around November 1582, as evident from Stratford church register and a daughter, named **Susanna**, was born to him. Susanna was baptized on May 26, 1583. On February 2, 1585, Shakespeare's twins were baptized here, **Hamnet and Judith**. Hamnet, Shakespeare's only son, died at the age of eleven.

The first reference to Shakespeare in the theatre world of London is found in 1592, when Shakespeare was making important friends, like **Henry Wriothesley**, the Third **Earl of Southampton**. He was a patron of drama and friend of actors, in the puritanical city of London which was quite against theatre performances. Shakespeare prospered early and recovered his family fortunes. He also gained gentility and received a ‘coat of arms’ which appears on Shakespeare’s monument in the Stratford church. Another interesting proof of Shakespeare’s success was his purchase of ‘New Place’, a large house in Stratford in 1597, which he probably walked by every day on his way to school.

From 1594 onward, Shakespeare was an important member of the **Lord Chamberlain’s Men**, a theatre company (the King’s Men after James I became the King in 1603). They performed in the best theatre, the **Globe Theatre** of London; had the best actor, Richard Burbage and also the best dramatist, William Shakespeare. Shakespeare became a full-time professional for the next twenty years and produced plays of the highest quality. He was popularly called the ‘**Bard of Avon**’ (or simply, Bard).



GLOBE THEATRE (LONDON)

Shakespeare seems to have retired to Stratford-on-Avon from London in about 1612.

Shakespeare's works are usually divided into four styles or genres: Comedies, Tragedies, Histories and Tragi-Comedies.

Comedies:

The Shakespearean comedies involve romance, mistaken identity, magic, love potions, adventures, shipwrecks, long lost twins, clowns and fools. The plot follows a character who explores distant places, away from the city or courtly life. This leads to their personal discovery. Some of the comedies are quite serious. But all comic plays have a happy ending with a resolution and one or more wedding(s). Examples: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *As You Like It*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *The Tempest*.

Tragedies:

The Shakespearean tragedies portray a character who has a weakness or fatal flaw, such as pride, jealousy or ambition that brings about his downfall and death. Tragedies are often grand stories, involving romance, war, family disputes, kings and queens, power struggles, disillusionment with society, and much more. Tragedies have a sad ending. Interestingly, Shakespeare's tragedies are his most popular plays, and regarded as his greatest works. Examples: *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Othello*, *King Lear*, *Julius Caesar*, *Romeo, Juliet* and *Titus Andronicus*.

Histories:

Shakespeare wrote several plays about kings and queens of England. However, he blended the historical facts with fiction to make interesting stories. These often created controversies, for instance, scholars still challenge Shakespeare's villainous portrayal of King Richard III. Shakespeare also wrote about historical figures from Rome and Egypt such as Julius Caesar and Cleopatra. Examples: *Henry V*, *Richard III*, *Henry IV Parts 1 and 2*, *Richard II*, and *Henry VI Parts 1 – 3*.

Tragi-Comedies:

Shakespeare's tragicomedies have improbable and complex plots; characters of high social class; contrasts between villainy and virtue; love; a hero who is saved; surprises and treachery. Examples: *Pericles*, *Cymbeline*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *The Tempest*.

“WORLD ENGLISH DAY”
Online Quiz Competition

- **Quiz Subject:**

English literature and language, prominent English writers, English in India, Indian writers of English, winners of Booker Prize and Nobel Prize for English literature.

- Participation in the quiz is open to all students of the college.
- The quiz consists of a multiple choice questionnaire (MCQ) through Google Form on basic knowledge of English language, literature and culture.
- There will be 25 MCQ questions.
- Time limit for the quiz will be 15 minutes.
- The quiz form will be available online from 8:15 pm on 23rd April, 2024.
- The quiz form will stop accepting responses after 8:30 pm on 23rd April, 2024.
- Participants who provide incomplete or inaccurate details – Name, Roll Number, Semester and Department will be disqualified.
- The winners will be selected by analyzing the responses after 9 pm.
- The names of the winners will be announced after the process is complete.

