Get Creative

Encore, Mr William Shakespeare!
Written and illustrated by Marcia Williams

Write like Will

In *Encore, Mr William Shakespeare* we learn about some of the many plays Shakespeare wrote. We know he wrote at least 37 and it's thanks to his friends, John Heminges and Henry Condell, that the 'First Folio' was published and his plays were saved for all time.

What makes Shakespeare's work even more incredible was that it was all written using a quill and ink. This was very tricky and took a lot of practice! Read the information below to find out more about how these were traditionally made and how to make a modern version!

QUILLS

Quills were traditionally made using feathers from large birds like geese or swans but feathers from ducks, pheasants, ravens, crows, peacocks and even turkeys were also used. To find out more about the history of quills, and how to make one using a traditional method, look at this fantastic resource on the Shakespeare Week website.

https://www.shakespeareweek.org.uk/resources/making-quill/

Follow these instructions to make a quill that you can use to practice writing just like Will!

YOU WILL NEED

- Large feathers (available from craft stores)
- Scissors
- Toothpick

WHAT TO DO

1. If needed, shorten the plume to about 8cm – you don't want it tickling you in the face when you are writing!
2. Using your scissors, cut the end of the feather at a sharp angle. (If the end is too tough to cut, soak it in hot water for a few minutes to soften it.)
3. Use the toothpick to pick out any debris from the cut end so it is clean and smooth.
4. You are ready to write!

SHAKESPEARE WEEK
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INK

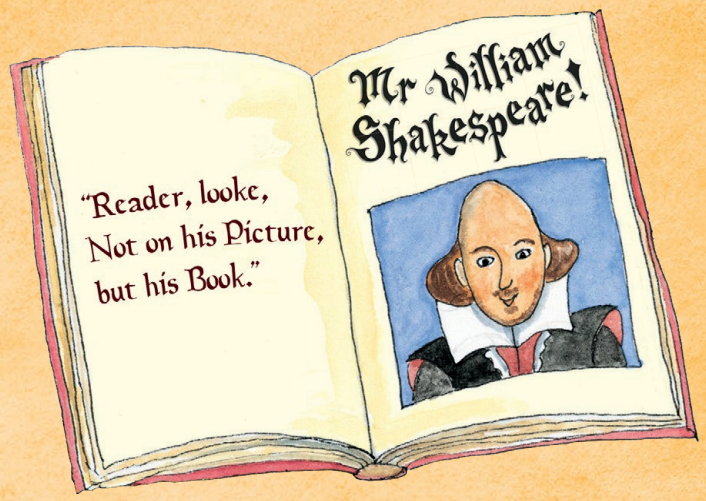
Today, most of our pens come with ink already inside or we can buy it at the shops. In Will's time, they had to make their own ink which was a long and complicated process! This recipe for ink was written in 1574!

To make comon yncke, of wyne take a quart.
To ounces of gumme*, let that be apart,
Five ounces of Galles**, of copros*** take three,
Long standing doth make it better to bee:
If wyne ye do want****, rayne water is best,
And then as much stuffe as above at the least:
If yncke be too thicke, put vinegre in:
For water doth make the colour more dimme.

From "A Newe Booke of Copies", 1574

* gum – tree sap
** oak galls, or apples, produced by the gall wasp
*** copros – iron salts (ferrous sulphate)
**** want - lack, not have

Follow these (much easier!) instructions to make some ink to use with your quill!



YOU WILL NEED

- Water
- Food colouring
- A small bottle or bowl
- A spoon

WHAT TO DO

1. Add 2 tablespoons of water to your bowl or bottle.
2. Add about 20 drops of food colouring to the water.
3. Use the spoon to mix it.
4. Your ink is ready to go!

TIP: You can change the shade of colour by adding more or less food colouring to the water. For a darker shade add more drops, for a lighter shade add less!

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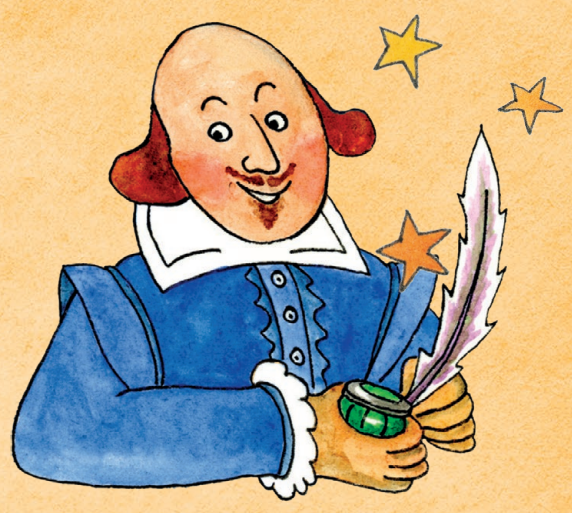
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WRITE TILL YOUR INK BE DRY

Now you have your quill and ink, you are ready to practise your writing! In can be tricky at first but keep practising!



YOU WILL NEED

- Your quill
- Your ink
- Cartridge paper – or any other thick paper

WHAT TO DO

1. Hold the quill like a normal pen.
2. Dip the end into the ink. Tap on the side of the bowl to remove any big drips.
3. Gently glide the tip of the quill across the paper – make sure you don't press too hard!
4. When the ink starts to run out, re-dip it in the ink.

TOP TIP

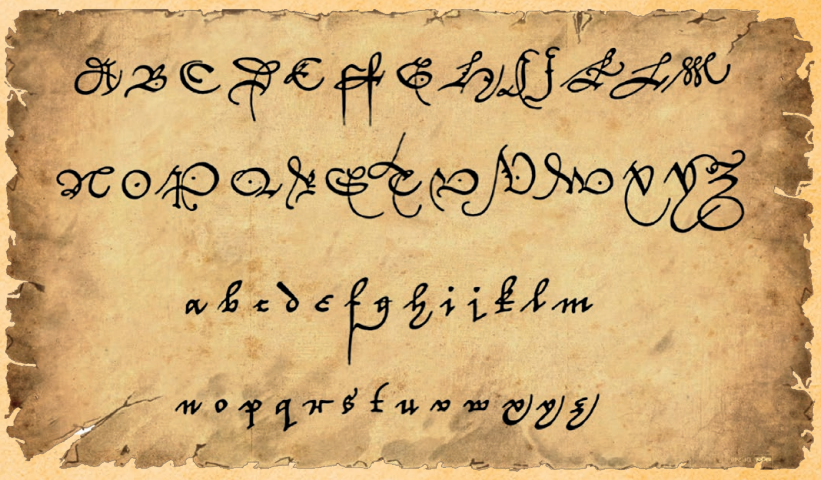
Try slightly tipping the quill to make thick or thin lines.

Downward strokes make thick lines.

Upward strokes make thin lines.

TUDOR SCRIPT

When you have practised making different types of lines and shapes using your quill, have a go a writing these upper and lower case letters in Tudor Script. Can you write your name? Or William's name? Or one of his famous quotes?



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