Task Info: You will be completing a packet about William Shakespeare. Complete the tasks that follow.

Task 1: Shakespeare’s Biography

Amazingly, we know very little about Shakespeare’s life. Even though he is the world’s most famous and popular playwright, historians have had to fill the gaps between the handful of surviving records from Elizabethan times.

Shakespeare Biography: The Basics
Born: April 23, 1564
Died: April 23, 1616
Married Anne Hathaway in November 1582
Born and raised in Stratford-upon-Avon, England, but moved to London in the late 1580’s. Shakespeare’s 37 plays and 154 sonnets are considered the most important and enduring ever written. Although the plays have captured the imagination of theatergoers for centuries, some historians claim that Shakespeare didn’t actually write them.

Early Years
Shakespeare was probably born on April 23, 1564, but this date is an educated guess because we only have a record of his baptism three days later. His parents, John Shakespeare and Mary Arden, were successful townsfolk who moved to a large house in Henley Street, Stratford-upon-Avon from the surrounding villages. His father became a wealthy town official and his mother was from an important, respected family.

It is widely assumed that he attended the local grammar school where he would have studied Latin, Greek, and classical literature. His early education must have made a huge impact on him because many of his plots draw on the classics.

Family
At 18, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway from Shottery, who was already pregnant with their first daughter. The wedding would have been arranged quickly to avoid the shame of having a child born out of wedlock. Shakespeare fathered three children in all: Susanna born May 1583, and Judith and Hamnet; twins born in February 1585. Hamnet died in 1596, at
age 11. Shakespeare was devastated by the death of his only son, and it is argued that *Hamlet*, written four years later, is evidence of this.

**Theater Career**

At some point in the late 1580’s, Shakespeare made the four day ride to London, and by 1592 had established himself as a writer.

In 1593 came the event that changed the course of literary history—Shakespeare joined Richard Burbage’s acting company and became chief playwright for the next two decades. Here, he was able to hone his craft, writing for a regular group of performers. Shakespeare also worked as an actor in the theater company, although the lead roles were always reserved for Burbage himself.

The company became very successful and often performed in front of the Queen of England, Elizabeth I. In 1603, James I ascended the throne and granted his royal patronage to Shakespeare’s company, which became known as The King’s Men.

The 452nd anniversary of William Shakespeare’s birth is coming. He is not only known as a timeless playwright, but also as a prolific inventor of words. Although modern researchers have found that some words originally attributed to him, such as *puke*, have earlier sources, there are still many that hold up today as Shakespeare’s creations according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SHAKESPEARE’S INVENTED WORDS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bandit</td>
<td>Skim-milk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critic</td>
<td>Swagger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dauntless</td>
<td>Unaware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwindle</td>
<td>Uncomfortable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elbow (as a verb)</td>
<td>Undress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green-Eyed (to describe jealousy)</td>
<td>Unearthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lackluster</td>
<td>Unreal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lonely</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Why are Shakespeare's birth and death an educated guess?

When an adult or teacher mentions Shakespeare, what comes to mind? Be honest. Why do you think this way?

Shakespeare is one of the most widely translated and read writers in history. Why do you think Shakespeare's writing has endured for so long?

Choose 3 of Shakespeare's invented words and use them in a sentence.

See page 2 for the list of invented words.

Example: When Rashawn walked by with his new leather jacket, I elbowed Ronetta to take a look.

Now you try:

**Task 2: Sonnet 18**
Vocabulary

Directions: Write an original sentence or draw an original picture related to the vocabulary word.

Note: If you are completing this online, you can paste a photo that represents each word. It can be a photo of your own drawing or something you found on the internet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>complexion</th>
<th>eternal</th>
<th>fair</th>
<th>lease</th>
<th>temperate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the natural color and appearance of the skin, usually referring to the face.</td>
<td>lasting forever; having no known end.</td>
<td>beautiful or attractive.</td>
<td>a legal agreement where someone pays for the use of something for an amount of time.</td>
<td>having moderate temperatures, not extremely hot or cold.</td>
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Task 3: Comprehension Questions

“Sonnet 18”
William Shakespeare

Read the poem below and complete the questions that follow:

Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer’s lease hath all too short a date;
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm’d;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance or nature’s changing course untrimm’d;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow’st;
Nor shall death brag thou wander’st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou grow’st:
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. What is the best meaning of <strong>temperate</strong> in the following line?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"Thou art more lovely and more temperate"

2. Who is the "thee" in the poem?

3. In the following line, **the eye of heaven** is a metaphor for____
   - A. Lightening
   - B. The sun
   - C. Love

4. The speaker says, "so long lives this and this gives life to thee." The words **this** refers to?

5. The speaker says, "Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade." This is an example of which literary device?
   - A. Allusion
   - B. Simile
   - C. Personification

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**Task 4: Assessment Questions**

1. PART A: Which of the following best describes a theme of the sonnet?
   - A. Nature is indifferent to mankind and is often cruel and punishing
   - B. Love is grander and more enduring than what it is often compared to
   - C. Love is the surest way to find happiness in life and the afterlife

2. Part B: Which of the following quotes best supports the answer the Part A?
   - A. "Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?/Thou art more lovely and more temperate.” (Lines 1-2)
   - B. "Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,/ And summer’s lease hath all too short a date." (Lines 3-4)
   - C. "And every fair from fair sometime declines,/By chance or nature’s changing course, untrimmed;” (Lines 7-8)

3. Which of the following best describes the effect of the use of figurative language in the poem?
   - A. The speaker uses metaphors to compare his beloved to the summer, and criticizes the summer for being harsh and fleeting.
   - B. The speaker personifies the sun, and makes it appear like the sun is a friendly individual who one would want to be compared to.
4. Part A: Which of the following best describes the function of “Time” in the poem?
A. The speaker declares that his beloved’s loveliness will live on forever through his poetry, unlike the short-lived summer season.
B. The speaker admits that although his beloved’s beauty will fade with time, his love will not fade.
C. The speaker explains that he loves his beloved more than he adores the summer because his beloved can love him back.

5. Part B: Which phrase from the poem best supports the answer to Part A?
A. “And summer’s lease hath all too short a date.” (Line 4)
B. “And every fair from fair sometime declines.” (Line 7)
C. “But thy eternal summer shall not fade.” (Line 9)

6. Re-read lines 9-14 of the poem. What is the conclusion of the sonnet and how does this contribute to the poem’s overall meaning? **Cite evidence in your answer!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is the conclusion?</th>
<th>How does the conclusion contribute to the poem’s overall meaning?</th>
<th>Cite your evidence from the poem.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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</table>

**Task 5: “Sonnet 5” Comparison**

1. How do you define inner beauty?
Those hours that with gentle work did frame
The lovely gaze where every eye doth dwell,
Will play the tyrants 1 to the very same
And that unfair which fairly doth excel:
For never-resting time leads summer on
To hideous winter and confounds 2 him there;
Sap check'd with frost and lusty leaves quite gone,
Beauty o'ersnow'd and bareness every where:
Then, were not summer's distillation 3 left,
A liquid prisoner pent in walls of glass,
Beauty's effect with beauty were bereft 4
Nor it, nor no remembrance what it was:
But flowers distill'd, though they with winter meet,
Leese but their show; their substance still lives sweet.

1. Tyrant (noun): a cruel and oppressive ruler
2. an archaic word for “overthrow” or “destroy”
3. the action of purifying a liquid by a process of heating and cooling
4. Bereft (adjective): to deprive or be deprived of something
Compare the two themes of "Sonnet 18" and "Sonnet 5" below in the chart. Make note of similarities and differences between the two sonnets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sonnet 18</th>
<th>Same</th>
<th>Sonnet 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How is the theme of this sonnet DIFFERENT than Sonnet 5?</td>
<td>How are both sonnets alike?</td>
<td>How is the theme of this sonnet DIFFERENT than Sonnet 18?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>