

**"Reading gives us some place to go  
when we have to stay where we are."**

Mason Cooley

### A poem for challenging times

***The Coming of Good Luck***  
by Robert Herrick (1591 – 1634)

So good luck came, and on my roof did  
light,  
Like noiseless snow, or as the dew of  
night:  
Not all at once, but gently, as the trees  
Are by the sunbeams tickled by  
degrees.

Herrick also wrote a lot of more or  
less erotic poetry including this great  
couplet:

*'Fain would I kiss my Julia's dainty Leg  
Which is as white and hair-less as an  
Egge'*

### A moral dilemma: The Poisoned Coffee

Tom hated his sister and put poison in  
her coffee that killed her. Jane hated  
her brother and wanted him dead.  
One day her brother put poison in his  
own coffee, thinking it was cream. Jane  
realised this, and had the antidote that  
could save him, but didn't hand it over  
and her brother died.

Was Jane's failure to act as bad as  
Tom's action?

### Who Dunit?

Re-arrange the letters to reveal classic  
crime writers (answers overleaf)

1. rnacleomtia
2. rsthaagihatiec
3. Dlcehile

### Opening Lines

(answers overleaf)

**1. From what classic dystopian novel:**

'It was a bright cold day in April and the clocks were striking thirteen.'

**2. From which Dickens novel about the French Revolution:**

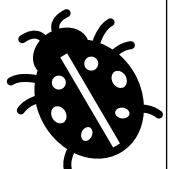
"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way."

**3. From the first of a series of novels that has sold more than 500 million copies:**

'Mr. and Mrs. Dursley of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much.'

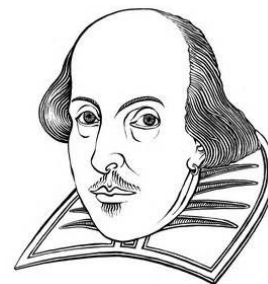
**Now write a story** of no more than 100 words with this opening sentence:

'As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams he found himself transformed in his bed into a gigantic insect.'\*\*



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY MR SHAKESPEARE

Shakespeare was born in 1564 on or about **April 23** - and Book Stuff is celebrating!



### Thou whoreson zed, thou unnecessary letter! Need an insult? Try these:

'Thou are a boil, a plague sore' (*King Lear*)

'Would thou wert clean enough to spit upon' (*Timon of Athens*)

'Methink'st thou are a general offence and every man should beat thee' (*All's Well that Ends Well*)

'Thou lump of foul deformity' (*Richard III*)

'Like the toad, ugly and venomous' (*As You Like It*)

### 'I wish I'd said that!'

Extracts from just a couple of the genius speeches Shakespeare wrote for his characters. Check them out in full when lockdown is over and you can get to the library

'Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow,  
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,  
To the last syllable of recorded time;  
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools  
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!  
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player,  
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,  
And then is heard no more. It is a tale  
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,  
Signifying nothing.'

(Macbeth, *Macbeth*)

All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women merely players;  
They have their exits and their entrances;  
And one man in his time plays many parts,  
His acts being seven ages. At first the infant,  
Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms;  
And then the whining school-boy, with his satchel  
And shining morning face, creeping like snail  
Unwillingly to school. And then the lover,  
Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad  
Made to his mistress' eyebrow

(Jacques, *As You Like It*)

### And finally... a quick quiz

1. Who is the Prince of Denmark in one of Shakespeare's most famous plays?
2. Match these opening lines to their plays:
  - i) 'When shall we three meet again, in thunder lightning or in rain?'
  - ii) 'Two households, both alike in dignity / In fair Verona where we lay our scene'
  - iii) 'Who's there?'
  - iv) 'Now is the winter of our discontent / Made glorious summer by this son of York'
3. Which of these actors has **NOT** played Hamlet on screen: Ethan Hawke, Laurence Olivier, Kenneth Branagh, Robert Downie Jr, Mel Gibson

#### ANSWERS

##### Opening lines

1. 1984
2. *A Tale of Two Cities*
3. *Harry Potter*

##### Who dunnit?

1. Martina Cole
2. Agatha Christie
3. Lee Child

##### Shakespeare quiz

1. Hamlet
2. *Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, Richard III*
3. Robert Downie Jnr

\*\*It's the first line of Franz Kafka's story 'Metamorphosis'

