

Shakespeare's Life and Art

Student Organizer Answer Key

Some people believe Shakespeare's plays were heavily influenced by his own life. As you watch the video segments from *Shakespeare Uncovered*, use the chart below to collect examples of how Shakespeare's own life may have influenced his plays.

| Events from Shakespeare's life | How they may have affected his plays |
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| Shakespeare was the father to twins, Hamnet and Judith. | <p><i>Shakespeare uses twins for comedic effect in his plays, like The Comedy of Errors and Twelfth Night.</i></p> <p><i>The twins in Twelfth Night, like his own, were a boy and a girl.</i></p> |
| Shakespeare's son Hamnet died at age eleven. | <p><i>The loss of a brother is a central theme in Twelfth Night - the girl twin believes her brother is lost, and that loss is central to the mood of the play.</i></p> <p><i>At the end of Twelfth Night, the brother and sister are reunited. Shakespeare might have been fulfilling his wish in his play.</i></p> |
| Shakespeare's daughter Judith became engaged to a man who had made another woman pregnant. | <i>The Tempest shows a father testing a man to see if he is suitable for his daughter.</i> |