List five facts about Elizabethan England- use books/the internet to help you:
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Name five of the characters in Romeo and Juliet:
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
Shakespeare’s love poetry

SONNET 18

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.

How does Shakespeare present love in this poem?
Elizabethan Wedding Customs - Arranged Marriages and Contracts

Just as today a woman's wedding was one of the most important days of her life. The major difference to Elizabethan wedding customs to a modern day Western marriage is that the woman had very little, if any, choice in who her husband might be. Marriages were frequently arranged so that both families involved would benefit. Marriages would be arranged to bring prestige or wealth to the family. The children of landowners would be expected to marry to increase the size of the acreage. A surprising fact is that young men were treated in a similar way as to women! Many couples would meet for the very first time on their wedding day! This particular Elizabethan custom usually applied to the nobility.

Elizabethan Wedding History - The importance of marriage to an Elizabethan woman

During the Elizabethan era of history women were very much 'second class citizens'. Regardless of their social standing they were expected to marry. Single women who were thought to be witches by their neighbours... Elizabethan marriages were sometimes arranged immediately following a babies birth via a formal betrothal.

Elizabethan Wedding Customs - The Age of Consent

With parental permission it was legal for boys to marry at 14 and girls at 12 although it was not usual or traditional for marriages at such young ages. The age of consent was 21 and boys would generally not marry until this age.

Summarise the text above. Don’t write it all back out – try to identify the key information the writer wants to get across, and condense it into smaller chunks.
Creative writing

Imagine you are 13 and living in Elizabethan England. Tomorrow, you are to be married off to someone you’ve never met before. Write a diary entry exploring your feelings.
You need to learn the meaning and spelling of the following ten words.

1) Sonnet
2) Oxymoron
3) Contrast
4) Feud
5) Mortal sin
6) Metaphor
7) Patriarchy
8) Adolescent
9) Juxtaposition
10) Fate

Use each word in a sentence in the space below, proving you know what it means.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

7)

8)

9)

10)
Extra reading: your homework expectation is to read for twenty minutes a night, every night. Why not try some of the following?
Whether you read your AR book from the school library, or a book from home, you could try to complete some of the following activities.

The idea is that they are a little more creative, and allow you to respond to what you’ve read without having to write an essay or an analysis.

- Design a costume for one of the characters. Annotate it, explaining your choices.

- Design a cover for the book you’ve just read. You could write a blurb for the back.

- Books in a hurry: sum your book up in as few words as possible! Feel free to illustrate your key chosen points.

- Imagine you are one of the main characters. Create your social media profile.

- Lonely hearts ad: imagine one of the characters in your book is looking for love. Write an advert they place in a newspaper, promoting themselves and explaining what they want from a partner.
A note to parents and carers,

The most important reason to read is because it’s enjoyable – we would like your child to view reading as a luxury and not a chore. Children who read for pleasure in their spare time perform significantly better at school than other pupils. The most important thing you can do for your child is to read with them, or at least to insist that they read themselves.

Ideally, they should read every single day – little and often is the way forward!

Your child’s homework for English is to complete this booklet, to the best of their ability, and to read as much as they can and as often as they can. They should always have a book from the school library, but obviously they can read their own books from home should they wish to do so. They can quiz on the books they read once they return to school.

To support us in helping your child, we ask that you complete the following log at the end of every week so that their English teacher can monitor how often they’re reading at home.

Thank you,

Mr Wootton
Head of English

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