

Jigsaw reading “Genuine or Fake? - William Shakespeare”

There **must be** few people in the world who haven't heard of Shakespeare. It's hard to believe

that there **could ever be** another writer who can speak to many people about things which are universally popular. However, despite this success, there are

people who believe that Shakespeare **may not even have existed**, and that if he did, he

can't have written the plays we still enjoy today. Are these just crazy conspiracy theories,

or might they be right? Traditional stories say that Shakespeare

was born in Stratford upon Avon in Britain, lived in a normal family, went to a normal school, then went to London to look for fame and fortune as an actor and playwright. Many people

say that Shakespeare's education means that he **can't have found** that fame and fortune, because the plays are too intelligent

to have been written by someone with a simple education. We know that Shakespeare eventually

returned to Stratford when he retired, but we don't know very much about what he did in the thirty years he was in London. He **could have been**

a very successful actor or he **might have been** a butcher, we just don't know! However, many people say that because all the first editions

of the plays talk about Shakespeare, then it **must have been** him.

After all, if his contemporaries said it was Shakespeare, why do we think that the real story might be different?