**- The Times of Shakespeare -**

Andrew Dickson: *Shakespeare in lockdown: Did he write “King Lear” in plague quarantine?*

**Tasks**

1. Below you find the link to the online article “Shakespeare in lockdown: did he write King Lear in plague quarantine?” by Andrew Dickson which was published by the Guardian on March 2020 in the midst of the global Covid Pandemic.

**Read** the article on your own first and **underline important information.**

**→** For **support**, there are helpful annotations given below.

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| [https://www.theguardian.com/stage/202](https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2020/mar/22/shakespeare-in-lockdown-did-he-write-king-lear-in-plague-quarantine)[0/mar/22/shakespeare-in-lockdown-did-he-write-king-lear-in-plague-quarantine](https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2020/mar/22/shakespeare-in-lockdown-did-he-write-king-lear-in-plague-quarantine) |

**Annotations** (ordered alphabetically)

*arguably* in one’s own opinion

*closure* the act of closing/shutting down

*culminates* to result

*depicting* to show

*epidemic* a disease which effects many people in a country/continent

*exile* banning sb from home

*explicit* clear, direct

*fleas* small parasites living on animals/ humans

*funeral* burying a dead person

*gatherings* large meeting

*infant* baby

*inkling* idea

*ironically* funnily

*morosely* to be grumpy, angry, bitter

*outbreak* *here*: beginning of epidemic

*pamphlet* piece of written paper (often for or against sth)

*parish* part of a city/community

*peak* main season

*to postponed* to plan or schedule to do sth later

*provinces* rural countryside/region

*shareholder* owner of a part of a company

*sin* an action considered a crime against God

*suspicious* being sceptical/having no trust

*transmission* *here:* disease spreading from person to person through air

*vulnerable* endangered

1. Get together with a partner and work on the following tasks.
   1. **Summarize** the main points of the article.
   2. **Make a list** of surprising information you learned from the article (name at least three). **Be prepared to explain** to the class the reasons why you were surprised.