

- 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.

<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

- 2) Get together with a partner and work on the following tasks.
 - a. **Summarize** the main points of the article.
 - b. **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.

