Introduction to Shakespeare Notes

Student Name: ________________ Date: _______ Period: ________

Directions: As you listen to the lecture and view the Power Point, fill in the appropriate blanks. Please follow along.

**Big Bill the Bard Himself:**

*Shakespeare was baptized on _______________ and died on _______________________. These dates matter--by knowing when an author lived, you can recognize what historical events may have affected them.

*Shakespeare is responsible for writing __________, __________, and ___________. He was an incredibly prolific (meaning active or productive) writer.

*Shakespeare's plays have been performed ______________________ than those of any other playwright. His work has been translated into every major spoken language!

**A Little Linguistics:**

*Here is a testament to how influential Shakespeare is; he is responsible for inventing over ______________________, many of which are still commonly used.

*Shakespeare was able to be creative with the English language because _______________ and _______________ had not been standardized yet. An author could make up his/her own system to a much greater extent than today.

*Shakespeare's _______________ were printed _____________________________ by members of his company.

*Shakespeare's quartos were printed ________________________, but are frequently considered _______________ as their printing was not directly supervised by Shakespeare himself. In fact, many scholars believe the quartos were simply poorly remembered versions of Shakespeare's plays.
Elizabethan Social Structures:

*Shakespeare's plays were ___________________________ despite the fact that we now consider them to be examples of "high literature".

*Elizabethan society functioned in a ___________________________ which was more of a ___________ than _______________ system. This meant that there was little, to no, "upward mobility"; if you were born a laborer you would never become a noble.

*Where _____________ in the Globe Theater (Shakespeare's theater) denoted (revealed) your ______________. Laborers, known as "groundlings", stood, nobles were in the galleries and came to see and be seen.

*Queen Elizabeth I was an _________________________ and was believed, by the Anglicans, to be _______________ on Earth.

What are you for, Romeo and Juliet?

*Romeo and Juliet is one of Shakespeare's plays based on the myth ___________________________ and on the narrative poem The Tragical History of Romeus and Juliet which was itself from an Italian author. Thus, we cannot fully credit Shakespeare for the story, but we can credit him for the language.

*Romeo and Juliet takes place in ________________ century ________________ and ________________ which were city-states in what we now call Italy.

* The play contains ___________________________ on several levels. First, it was directly discussing the nature of Italian society during the late medieval period. Second, it was a safe way for Shakespeare to comment on the ugly results of the recent English conflict between the Catholics and the Anglicans (Protestants).

Additional Notes: